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THE AVENGERS®

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THE AVENGERS

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT FOES THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

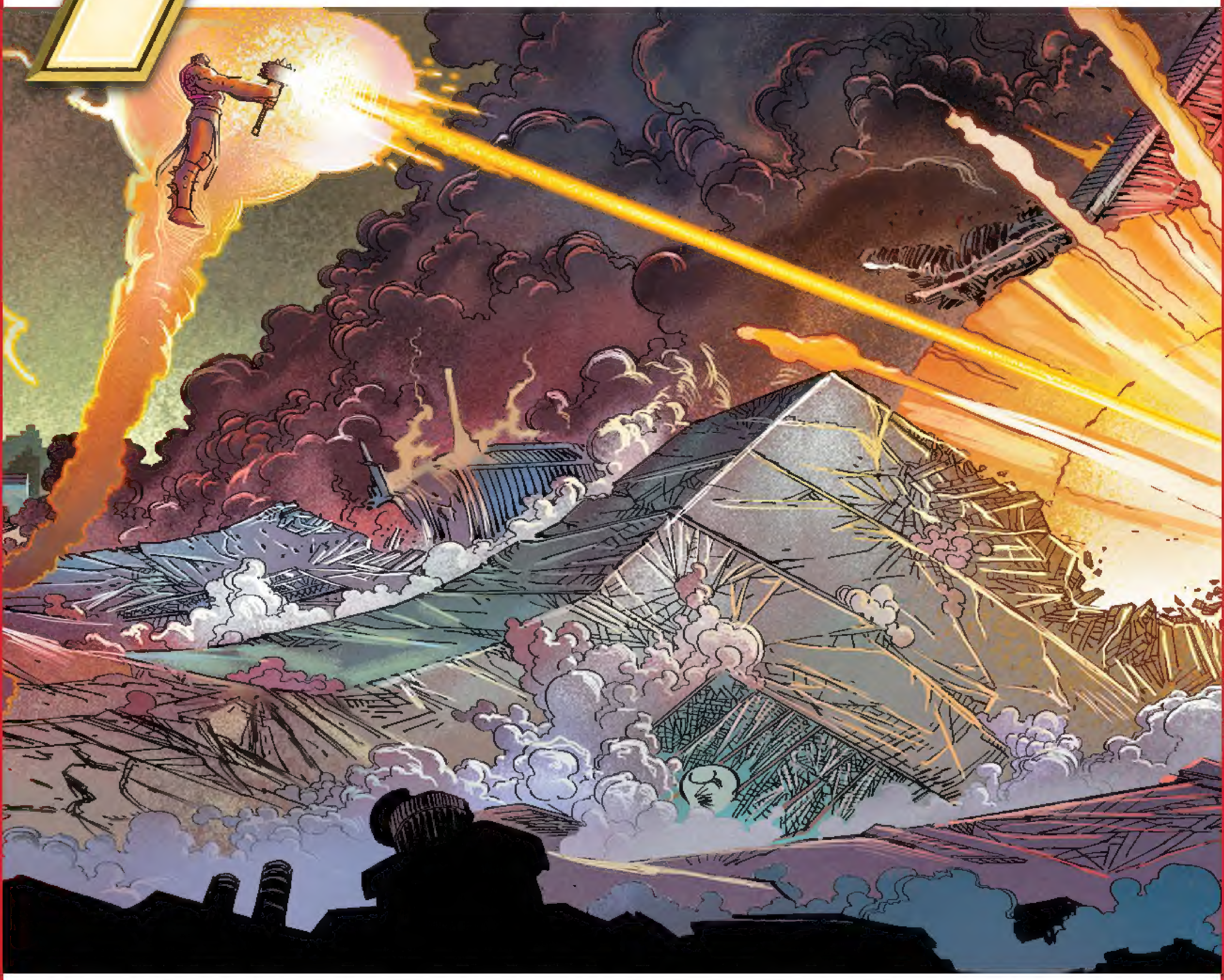
IRON MAN

HAWKEYE

SPIDER-WOMAN

THE PROTECTOR

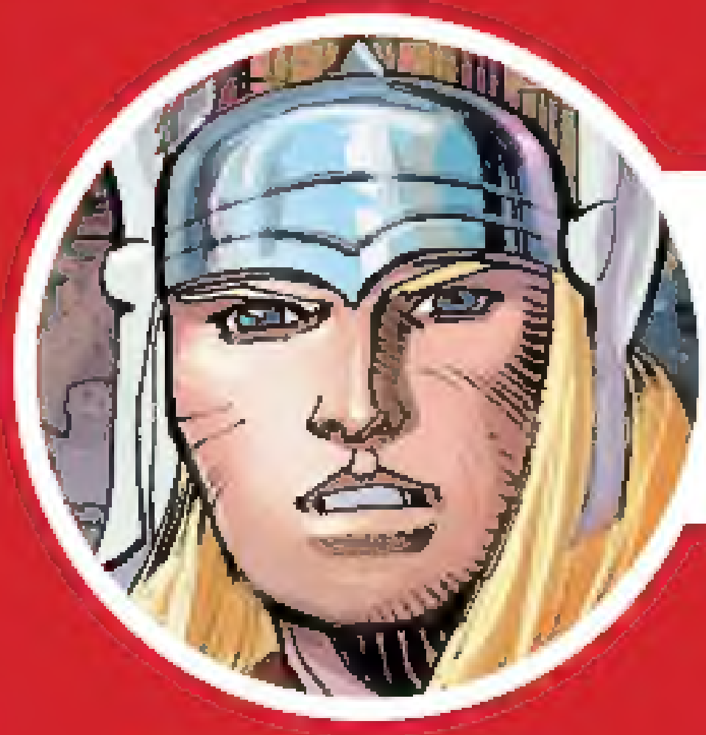
JARVIS



THE AVENGERS! WOLVERINE, IRON MAN, SPIDER-MAN, THOR, SPIDER-WOMAN, THE PROTECTOR AND HAWKEYE ARE HANDPICKED BY STEVE ROGERS TO LEAD THE PREMIER AVENGERS TEAM!

FIGHTING AN IMPOSSIBLE WAR AGAINST THE ASGARDIAN GOD OF FEAR AND HIS HAMMER-WIELDING MINIONS, THE AVENGERS HAVE EMERGED WITH A BITTERSWEET VICTORY. BUCKY BARNES, HAVING TAKEN UP STEVE ROGERS' ROLE AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, PERISHED IN THE COURSE OF THE CONFLICT, AS DID THOR. AVENGERS TOWER WAS ALSO DESTROYED, LEAVING THE AVENGERS WITHOUT A HOME.

ROGERS HAS TAKEN BACK THE MANTLE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AND NOW THE AVENGERS CONFRONT AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.



THOR

WOLVERINE

SPIDER-MAN

THE RED HULK

MARIA HILL

GEFFEN-MYERS CHEMICALS INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.
THE SUPER HERO CIVIL WAR.
MONTHS AGO.
COMMANDER HILL, WE SENT THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THEIR WAY BUT IT'S ONLY GOING TO BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE MEDIA--
I KNOW, AGENT.
WHAT'S THE ORDER?
CLEAN IT UP.
YES, SIR.
QUICKLY.

DOES ANYBODY HAVE A 30-FOOT BODY BAG?
JAWOHL, HERR COMMANDANT.
CAREFUL.
I KNOW, SHE HAS EARS ON THE BACK OF HER HEAD.
DO YOU GUYS *EVER* STOP?
WHAT'S WRONG *NOW*, WASHINGTON?
THIS IS AWFUL--WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
HEY, I DIDN'T TELL ALL THE SUPER HEROES IN THE WORLD TO BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF EACH OTHER.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY WE NEED A SUPER HERO REGISTRATION ACT.
RIGHT HERE.
I DON'T CARE WHO THINKS THEY WON THIS FIGHT.
ALL THIS DID IS PROVE THAT *NONE* OF THESE SO-CALLED SUPER HERO MANIACS CAN BE TRUSTED TO RUN FREE.
DO YOU NEED A RADIO SHOW TO CALL INTO?
NO, I'M GOOD.
WHICH ONE WAS THIS GUY?
I'M GOING TO GO OUT ON A LIMB AND SAY IT WAS GOLIATH.
YOU KNOW WHAT KILLED HIM?
A BROKEN HEART?
THOR.
IS THAT *TRUE?*
I SAW IT.
YOU SAW THOR DO *THIS?*
WITH MY OWN EYES.
THAT'S THE MOST DISGUSTING THING I'VE EVER HEARD.
SORRY.
SO THEY'RE JUST GOING TO KILL EACH OTHER AND WE ARE GOING TO *LET THEM?!*
WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME LIKE I DID THIS?
THIS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED.
YEAH, WELL... NEITHER SHOULD FAST FOOD.
HOW DOES A GUY MAKE HIMSELF INTO A GOLIATH ANYWAY?
AND WHY DIDN'T HE SHRINK BACK TO NORMAL SIZE ONCE HE DIED?
THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION.

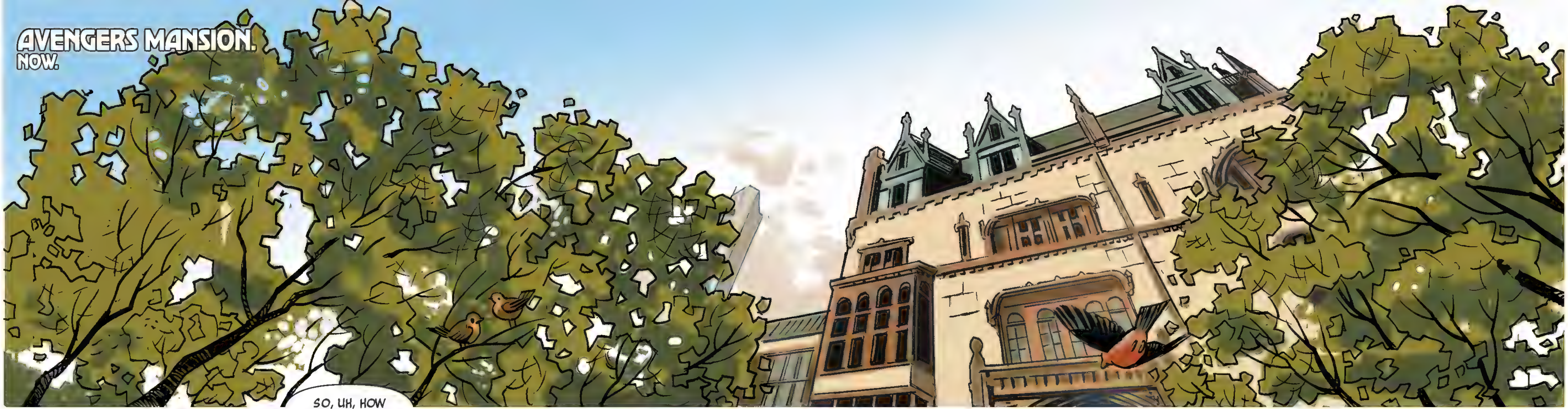
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE, MANHATTAN.
THE ASSASSINATION OF CAPTAIN AMERICA.
MONTHS AGO.
ROGERS IS DOWN! WHERE'S THAT @#$@ SNIPER?!
STEVE!
NOOO!
TRAITOR
RAITOR
RICA
CA

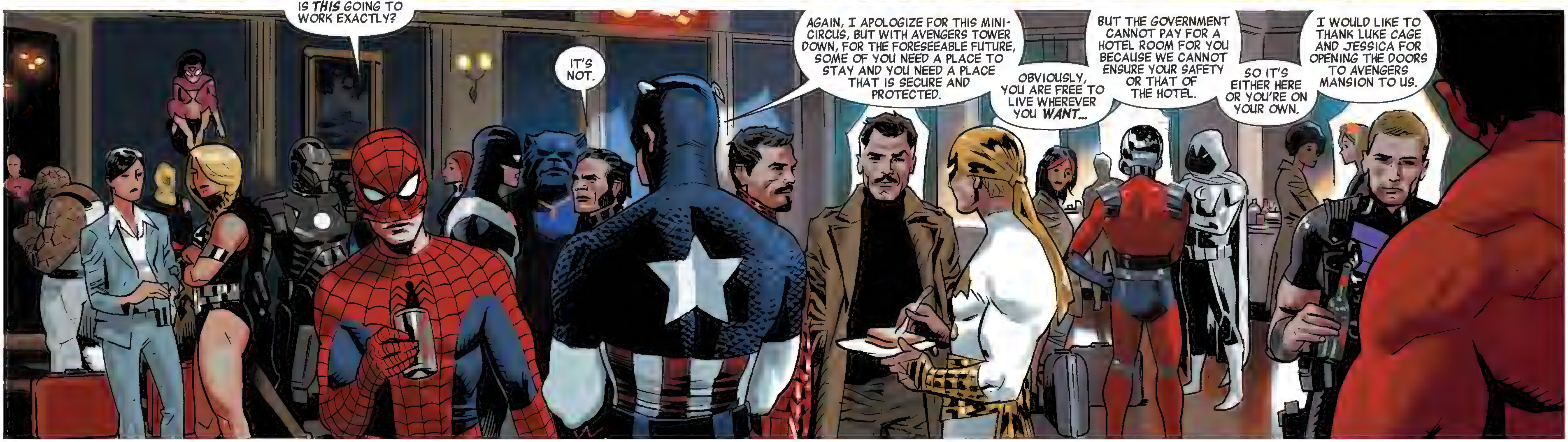
CAPTAIN AMERICA.
JEEZ.
I SAW THE BODY BEING TRANSFERRED.
IT'S GONNA BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I SHAKE THAT IMAGE.
LET'S JUST DO WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO.
1
2
3

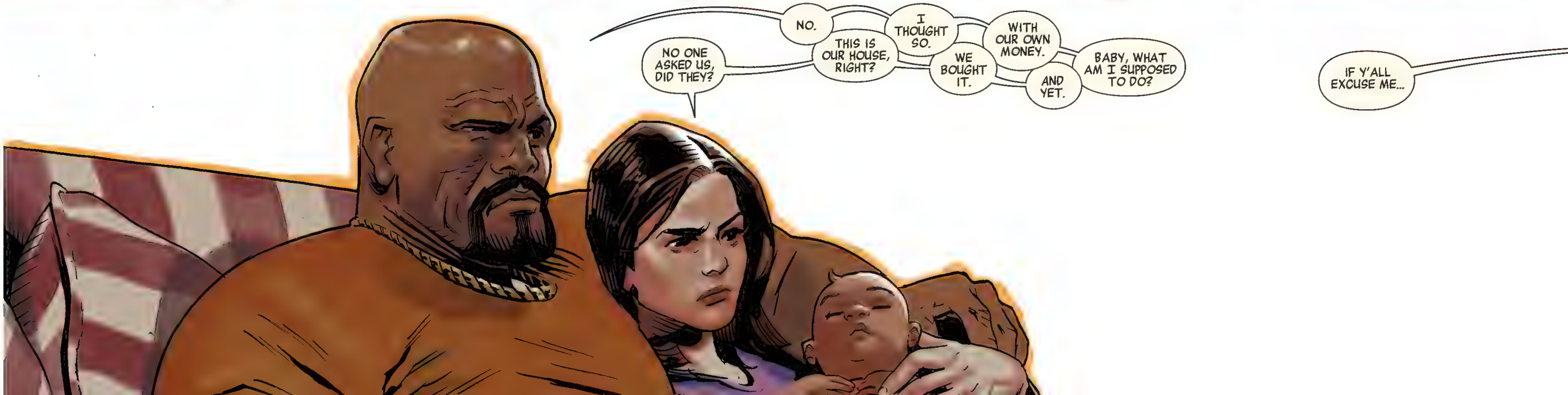
CENTRAL PARK.
THE SKRULL INVASION.
MONTHS AGO.
SHAPE-SHIFTING *SKRULLS!*
LOOK AT ALL THIS!
SHHH, NICK FURY'S HERE.
IS FURY BACK IN CHARGE?
I THOUGHT HE DIED. THEY TOLD US HE--
YOU'RE SO NAIVE.
M

AVENGERS TOWER.
AFTERMATH OF BLITZKRIEG U.S.A.
YESTERDAY.
I'M SORRY, TONY.
NOT YOUR FAULT, STEVE. IT'S NO ONE'S FAULT.
IT'S THE RED SKULL'S FAULT.
WELL, THAT'S TRUE.
ONE WAY
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

I KNOW IT SOUNDS STUPID, STEVE...BUT I WAS ***INSANELY*** PROUD OF THIS BUILDING.
NOT STUPID, TONY.
WE REBUILD IT.
NO.
NO?
I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY.
ARE WORDS I DON'T LIKE SAYING OUT LOUD.
AT ALL.
THIS WAS IT.
THIS IS WHAT I HAD LEFT.
WE'RE REBUILDING IT.
LET'S JUST-- IT'S A SIGN. LET'S LET IT LIE.
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING THAT I HAVEN'T SAID OUT LOUD...
WHEN THE TOWERS WENT DOWN AND THEY DIDN'T REBUILD... THAT DROVE ME INSANE.
IT DRIVES ME INSANE STILL.
YOU DO NOT-- YOU ***ABSOLUTELY*** DO NOT LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS LIE.
YOU DO NOT GIVE THOSE WHO WOULD CELEBRATE IN THE FACE OF THIS DISASTER THE SATISFACTION.
YOU DO NOT GIVE THOSE WHO WOULD LOOK AT THIS IN DESPAIR ANY MORE GRIEF THAN THEY NEED.
YOU BUILD.
YOU WANTED TO REBUILD ASGARD AS A STATEMENT.
THAT GOES ***DOUBLE*** FOR OUR OWN HOME.
OKAY.
OKAY.
HOW DO I PAY FOR IT?
DIDN'T THOR OPEN THE ASGARDIAN TREASURE ROOM TO YOU TO PAY FOR REBUILDING ASGARD?
YES.
YOU DON'T THINK HE WOULD'VE WANTED TO HELP OUT HERE TOO?
WHAT DO WE DO IN THE MEANTIME?
CALL IN A FAVOR.
OR TEN.


AVENGERS MANSION.
NOW.


SO, UH, HOW IS *THIS* GOING TO WORK EXACTLY?
IT'S NOT.
AGAIN, I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS MINI-CIRCUS, BUT WITH AVENGERS TOWER DOWN, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, SOME OF YOU NEED A PLACE TO STAY AND YOU NEED A PLACE THAT IS SECURE AND PROTECTED.
OBVIOUSLY, YOU ARE FREE TO LIVE WHEREVER YOU *WANT*...
BUT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT PAY FOR A HOTEL ROOM FOR YOU BECAUSE WE CANNOT ENSURE YOUR SAFETY OR THAT OF THE HOTEL.
SO IT'S EITHER HERE OR YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
I WOULD LIKE TO THANK LUKE CAGE AND JESSICA FOR OPENING THE DOORS TO AVENGERS MANSION TO US.


NO ONE ASKED US, DID THEY?
NO.
THIS IS OUR HOUSE, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT SO.
WE BOUGHT IT.
WITH OUR OWN MONEY.
AND YET.
BABY, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
IF Y'ALL EXCUSE ME...

I JUST WANTED TO SAY, YOU KNOW, BEFORE IT GETS *TOO* AWKWARD...
I JUST WANTED TO SAY I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED.
BEN, YOU DON'T NEED TO...
NO, CAP, ***NO!***
LET ME-- LET ME ***TALK.***
I KNOW IT WASN'T UNDER MY CONTROL, BUT IT WAS MY HAND THAT TOOK THE TOWER DOWN.
I KNOW-- I KNOW I SHOULDN'T EVEN HAVE COME HERE NO MORE...
BUT--BUT I WANTED TO SAY I'M SORRY.
I WANTED TO--
I'VE--
IT'S BEEN A REALLY CRAPPY YEAR, IS ALL.
NO ONE'S BLAMING YOU, BEN.
NOT ONE PERSON.
IF YOU'LL GIVE US A MINUTE...

MASTER WONG.
EDWIN JARVIS. THE GREAT SERVANT TO THE AVENGERS.
AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
AN HONOR TO MEET YOU AS WELL.
IF I MAY...
YES?
STAY THE @#$@$ OUT OF MY KITCHEN OR I'LL CUT OFF YOUR @#$@#.
UNDERSTOOD.
DO THEY EVEN HAVE ENOUGH ROOM FOR ALL OF US?
I HAVE AN APARTMENT IN THE CITY. I'M OUT OF HERE.
CAN I ROOM WITH YOU?
I LOVE YOU, JESSICA...
BUT--
WOULD *YOU* ROOM WITH YOU?
NO. NOT REALLY.
AND DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT MOCKINGBIRD IS GIVING YOU THE STINK EYE.

WHAT DID I DO ***NOW?***
YOU'RE DATING HER EX-HUSBAND.
NO, I'M NOT.
WELL, WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, SHE KNOWS ABOUT IT.
HOW DOES SHE ***KNOW*** ABOUT IT?
HE PROBABLY ***TOLD*** HER.
WHAT THE ***HELL?***
TOLD YOU.
SHUT UP.
I'M JUST SAYING--
SHUT--
I TOLD YOU.

I CALL TOP BUNK.
THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN...
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY... WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
WE'VE LOST SOME DEAR FRIENDS AND WE'VE GAINED SOME, TOO.
AND WITH THAT, HISTORICALLY, WE KNOW THAT THIS MEANS IT'S TIME TO DO SOME *REAL* SOUL-SEARCHING.
IT'S TIME TO REEXAMINE WHAT THE AVENGERS ARE AND WHAT WE MEAN TO EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD.
SO THE REAL QUESTION IS... WHO WILL STAY AND WHO WILL GO?
WHO WILL BE AN AVENGER?
UH...
EXCUSE ME?

MY NAME IS DR. CAROLINA WASHINGTON.
I'M A FORENSIC SCIENTIST SPECIALIZING IN ABNORMAL GENETIC MATERIAL AND EXTRATERRESTRIAL BIOLOGY.
I WAS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
FOR ALL THAT MEANS ANYMORE.
THE REASON I'M HERE...
THE REASON I HAVE COME TO YOU IS BECAUSE WE, LIKE MANY OTHER PEOPLE, FIND OURSELVES COMPLETELY *DISGUSTED* WITH WHAT WE SEE WHEN WE OPEN OUR EYES IN THE MORNING.
THESE AVENGERS, THESE FANTASTIC FOUR, ALL OF THEM...
NO ONE IS HOLDING THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR *ANYTHING* THAT THEY DO TO US OR TO THEMSELVES.
THEY JUST WANT US TO CLEAN IT UP, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
AND IT'S WRONG. IT'S JUST FUNDAMENTALLY *WRONG.*
AND WHAT ARE YOU OFFERING EXACTLY?
I PERSONALLY HAVE BEEN STUDYING THE METHODOLOGY AND IDEOLOGY BEHIND THE SCIENTIST CONCLAVE A.I.M.
I WENT TO THEM AND THEY BROUGHT ME TO YOU.
BUT AGAIN I MUST ASK, WHAT ARE YOU OFFERING?
WELL...
I'VE BEEN IN AN INTERESTING POSITION TO COLLECT BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES FROM MANY INTERESTING PLACES.
IN HERE ARE ALL THE GENETIC SECRETS OF THE ENTIRE SUPERHUMAN POPULATION.

WELL, NOW YOU'RE SAYING SOMETHING.
MY NAME IS NORMAN OSBORN, DOCTOR.
ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE HERE, WELCOME TO ***H.A.M.M.E.R.***

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RYKERS ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
THE RAFT, RYKERS MAXIMUM-MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T KNOW?
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW NORMAN OSBORN, ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS IN THE COUNTRY, WALKED RIGHT OUT OF YOUR MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON THAT WAS BUILT AND DESIGNED *SPECIFICALLY* TO--
NO, KID...
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL *YOU* ARE.
I AM DAISY JOHNSON, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND I AM YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICER ON *EVERY* CONCEIVABLE LEVEL.
CAPTAIN AMERICA *HIMSELF* ASKED ME TO COME DOWN AND INVESTIGATE *EXACTLY* WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
DO YOU KNOW WHO *I* AM?
SURE DO.

YOU'RE JOHN WALKER, THE WARDEN OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PRISON IN THE WORLD.
ONE-TIME CAPTAIN AMERICA, ONE-TIME U.S.AGENT, ONE-TIME SUPER-PATRIOT...
THIS COUNTRY OWES YOU A GREAT DEBT.
AND IF THEY EVER THROW A *PARADE* FOR YOU, I WILL BE RIGHT THERE IN FRONT LIFTING MY TOP.
BUT RIGHT NOW, I WANT YOU TO DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO HELP ME FIND THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS I HAVE BEEN TASKED TO ANSWER.
KID, ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I PUT IN MY REPORT.
YOU WERE DRUGGED?
I'M TELLING YOU, SOMEONE SPIKED MY TEA.
I WOKE UP IN MY OFFICE... AND IT HAD ALL GONE DOWN.
THE SECURITY CAMERAS?
PULLED OFFLINE.
BY?
YOU TELL *ME!*
YOU KNOW HOW THIS LOOKS...
...RIGHT?

I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
LIKE I WAS STAFFED WITH A BUNCH OF *SPECTACULARLY* CRAPPY GUARDS...
OR WITH A HANDFUL OF OSBORN SYMPATHIZERS...
OR WITH A BUNCH OF EASILY-BOUGHT CHUMPS WHO OVERPOWERED *THE AVENGERS!*
BECAUSE IT WAS, IF I MAY REMIND YOU, ON THE AVENGERS' WATCH THAT OSBORN *WALKED RIGHT OUT OF HERE!*
THE AVENGERS!
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!!
I'M BEING SET UP TO TAKE A FALL.
AND I AIN'T GOING DOWN EASY, GIRL.
FOURTEEN GUARDS MISSING.
AND FIVE DEAD.
I'M GOING TO NEED TO SEE THE FILES ON ALL THOSE MEN.

WHO ***IS*** SHE, HAWKEYE?
DAISY JOHNSON. SHE'S ONE OF FURY'S.
AND ***WHY*** IS SHE HERE?
BECAUSE CAP WANTED FRESH EYES ON THIS.
THE AVENGERS ***WERE*** HERE WHEN OSBORN WENT BYE-BYE. WE'RE NOT FRESH EYES, JESS.
SHE'S REALLY AN AGENT?
LEVEL 10.
SHE'S 14 YEARS OLD.
LEVEL 10.
JEEZ!
WHAT?
I'M ONLY LEVEL 7.
YOU'RE A 10 TO ME.
SHUT UP.
IDIOT.
IT KINDA WORKED ON YA.
KINDA.

AVENGERS MANSION.
WE'VE RECIEVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS IS, AS WE SPEAK, MEETING WITH THE AVENGERS TO SETTLE ON WHO WILL BE ON THE TEAM GOING FORWARD.
I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR. I LOVE THE GUESSING GAME.
I LOVE TRYING TO SECOND-GUESS WHAT CAPTAIN AMERICA SEES AS THE BEST REPRESENTATIVES OF US AS AN AMERICAN PEOPLE.
CAP RULES
We ♥ Av
THIS IS NOTHING BUT PROPAGANDA AND SPIN.
WHAT WE SHOULD REALLY BE TALKING ABOUT IS WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE ATTACK ON AMERICA!
WE WERE VICTIMS OF A BLITZKRIEG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. WILL NEVER RECOVER.
YET CAPTAIN AMERICA IS TRYING TO DISTRACT US WITH THIS--THIS FLUFF.
THIS NON-STORY.
THAT IS ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS.
WE KNOW EXACTLY WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE ATTACK ON AMERICAN SOIL...YOU, AND PEOPLE LIKE YOU, JUST CHOOSE TO NOT BELIEVE IT.
WE HAVE THE AVENGERS TO THANK FOR THE FACT THAT WE'RE STILL HERE BREATHING.
THE AVENGERS REPRESENT ALL THAT IS GOOD AND DECENT IN US...
AND IT IS OKAY, IT'S MORE THAN OKAY, FOR THIS COUNTRY TO GATHER AROUND AND CHEER FOR THE HERO INSIDE US ALL.
I THINK THIS SO-CALLED CAPTAIN AMERICA IS MISREADING THE MOOD OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.
AND I MEAN MISSING IT BY A MILE.
THERE'S A BIG PART OF THE PUBLIC THAT CRINGES EVERY TIME WE SEE A COSTUMED "HERO."
Fox news
AND SEEING A BUNCH OF THEM TOGETHER JUST SENDS SHIVERS OF FEAR DOWN OUR COLLECTIVE SPINES.
AFTER THE MESS THEY MADE WITH THE RED SKULL, THE SKRULLS, AND GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON THAT THEY DON'T EVEN TALK ABOUT IN PUBLIC...
I THINK IT WOULD BE IN BETTER TASTE FOR THEM TO LAY LOW.
YOU KNOW, SHOW SOME CLASS, CAPTAIN.
NOT EVERYONE IS BUYING WHAT YOU'RE SELLING.
THIS IS SO EXCITING.
WE'LL BE COVERING THIS STORY AROUND THE CLOCK, SO STAY TUNED FOR DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY HAPPEN.
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
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STEVEN.
DID *YOU* CALL THE MEDIA, TONY?
NO.
NO?
MAYBE A LITTLE.
WHY?
BECAUSE THE WORLD NEEDS SOMETHING TO FOCUS ON, AND THE GUY WEARING THE FLAG WHO SWORE TO PROTECT US PICKING THE BEST OF THE BEST OF THE BEST IS A PRETTY GOOD SHOW.
YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED ME FIRST.
YOU'D HAVE SAID NO, SO WHY WOULD I DO *THAT?*
SO WHAT ARE WE THINKING?
THE NEW AVENGERS--I SAY WE LEAVE THEM ALONE.
WELL, THERE'S THAT, BUT...
BECAUSE IT'S LUKE CAGE'S WORLD AND THEY'RE GOING TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT ANYHOW.

WE SHOULD FOCUS ON *OUR* TEAM.
WE'RE THE *SANCTIONED* AUTHORITY.
AND NOW WE--WE DON'T HAVE THOR, WE DON'T HAVE BUCKY...
WHAT DO WE NEED?
I DON'T KNOW.
7 he eye of Manhattan
--COVERING THIS STORY AROUND THE CLOCK, SO STAY TUNED FOR DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY HAPPEN--
WE NEED SOME OLD FRIENDS.

HELL'S KITCHEN.
FABOOM
KTANG

CAPTAIN AMERICA.
FLANG
WAP
PANTHER.
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, CAPTAIN. WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWNTOWN?
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, ACTUALLY.
DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE THIS EASY.
BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
MADRIPOOR ARMS DEALERS TRYING TO MAKE A TRADE.
I STOPPED IT. THEY GOT MAD.
WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE?
DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT IT.
WERE YOU REALLY LOOKING FOR ME?
T'CHALLA, I WANT YOU TO COME BACK TO THE AVENGERS.

HMM.
DON'T THINK I CAN, CAPTAIN.
WHY NOT?
BUT--
IN A PINCH, I'LL ALWAYS COME WHEN CALLED, YOU KNOW THAT.
BUT I'M JUST NOT THERE RIGHT NOW.
I HAVE THINGS I NEED TO DO HERE.
YOU CAN DO BOTH.
WE CAN HELP.
I'M JUST NOT THERE RIGHT NOW.
I UNDERSTAND.
WHY ME ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WE LOST THOR, WE LOST BUCKY.
I THOUGHT WE NEEDED SOME FRIENDLY FACES.
I'M A FRIENDLY FACE?
YOU ARE.
YOU *ARE* IN BAD SHAPE IF I'M A FRIENDLY FACE.
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU DON'T NEED A FRIENDLY FACE.
YOU NEED-- YOU NEED FIREPOWER.
NOT THAT EASY TO FIND.
YOU NEED MY WIFE.
HUH.

AVENGERS MANSION,
BACK COURTYARD.
YOU RANG?

STORM, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT JOINING THE AVENGERS?
DID MY HUSBAND PUT YOU UP TO THIS?
HE DID.
THAT MAN WILL DO ANYTHING TO KEEP ME IN NEW YORK.
WHO CAN BLAME HIM?
GIVE ME MY BABY.
WELL...
HMM...
I'D HAVE TO MOVE SOME THINGS AROUND...
ACTUALLY, CAP...
I HAVE SOMEONE HERE YOU MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO.
JUST STAY THERE.
WHAT DID YOU...?

WELCOME BACK TO THE AVENGERS...
THE VISION
CAPTAIN.
HOW? I THOUGHT HE WAS--
A SCRAP HEAP. HE WAS.
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON HIM IN MY SPARE TIME.
SPARE TIME, GET IT?

HE *IS* THE MOST ADVANCED MACROTECH-ORGANISM THAT EXISTS ON THE PLANET.
IT WAS HARD. REALLY HARD. ONE OF MY BIGGEST CHALLENGES.
BUT I KEPT TRYING. I JUST DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO GET ANYONE'S HOPES UP.
A WEEK AGO, I HIT THE RIGHT BUTTON OR LEVER OR SOMETHING BECAUSE HE STARTED TO HEAL HIMSELF.
REGENERATE.
I SPENT THE LAST COUPLE OF NIGHTS REBOOTING HIS A.I....
AND THEN: HEY, LOOK, THE VISION.
CAPTAIN, IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU ALL.
HEY, HOT STUFF.
I AM SORRY IF MY SUDDEN APPEARANCE HERE IS STARTLING.
AND I APOLOGIZE IF I DO NOT SEEM AS MOVED AS ALL OF YOU.
TO ME, IT FEELS LIKE I'D SEEN YOU ONLY YESTERDAY.
OBVIOUSLY, I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU ALL AND HAPPY TO SEE AVENGERS MANSION STANDING.
I DON'T REMEMBER HIM TALKING THIS MUCH.
I HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON ALL CURRENT EVENTS AND RECENT AVENGERS HISTORY.
IT SEEMS YOU'VE BEEN RATHER BUSY.
I AM CAUGHT UP TO SPEED AND I'D LIKE TO--
TO--

OH YEAH, THERE'S A RED HULK NOW.
?
HEY, UH, ROBOT.
VISION, IS THAT REALLY YOU?
CLINT BARTON.
JARVIS.
CAPTAIN, I AM EAGER TO GET BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF... THE AVENGERS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S CLEARLY NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.
HEY, 'RORO.
LOGAN.
YOU HERE NOW?
I SUPPOSE.
HUH.
SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN.

WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT, AGENT JOHNSON?
FOURTEEN AGENTS HELPED WITH THE OSBORN ESCAPE.
OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL?
I SPOKE TO AN AGENT ETHAN CARSO WHO SAYS HE WAS BITCHING, IN THE LUNCHROOM A FEW WEEKS BACK, ABOUT HIS PAY SITUATION.
ONE OF THE OTHER AGENTS, AN AGENT NATHAN EMBRY, ASKED HIM IF HE WAS IN IT FOR THE MONEY OR BECAUSE HE BELIEVED IN THE CAUSE.
CARSO WAS ANGRY, SO HE SAID THE MONEY.
THEN THIS AGENT EMBRY APPROACHED HIM ABOUT A "GATHERING OF SORTS."
CARSO ASKED WHAT KIND OF GATHERING, BUT THEY NEVER GOT BACK TO HIM.
EMBRY WAS ONE OF THE AGENTS ASSIGNED TO OSBORN, AND NOW HE, ALONG WITH OSBORN, IS MISSING.
I'VE BEEN TO THE HOMES OF EVERY MISSING AGENT ASSIGNED TO THE RAFT THAT DAY.
THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE *ALL* H.A.M.M.E.R. AND OSBORN LOYALISTS.
ONE EVEN HAD A SECRET SHRINE.
DAMMIT.
CAP, THESE AGENTS WERE VETTED.
RANKED AND PLACED.
THIS MEANS WE CAN'T TRUST ANYONE.
WE'RE SURROUNDED.
H.A.M.M.E.R. IS EVERYWHERE.

WE ARE RECEIVING WORD THAT WE ARE ONLY MINUTES AWAY.
THE AVENGERS ROSTER HAS BEEN PICKED, COMMANDER ROGERS HAS MADE HIS CHOICES, AND THE STAGE IS SET...
WE'VE SEEN A LOT OF COMING AND GOING ALL AFTERNO--
HI GUYS. I'M VICTORA HAND, I'M ONE OF THE TEAM LIAISONS.
LIAISON TO WHAT?
Y'KNOW, STUFF.
WE HAVE A FULL COURTYARD OF PRESS AND A CRAZY CROWD SITUATION.
FANTASTIC.
CAP, I SAY NO QUESTIONS BUT THAT'S ENTIRELY YOUR CALL.
LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.
YOU GOING OUT THERE?
HELL NO.
ARE WE STILL ON THAT TEAM?
THEY GOT THEIR MUTANT AND SPIDER-PERSON.
I FEEL USED.
CAPTAIN, IS THIS REALLY THE BEST IDEA FOR ME? I MEAN--
ITS PART OF THE GIG, HULK. PEOPLE HAVE TO LEARN TO LOVE YOU.
I DON'T HAVE A PREPARED SPEECH.
GOOD. YOU STAY QUIET. JUST TRY TO SMILE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
WE READY, CAP? IS THIS EVERYONE?
AGENT JOHNSON. WHAT WAS YOUR CODE NAME? THE ONE FURY GAVE YOU?
UM... QUAKE, SIR.
YOU'RE STEPPING UP, AGENT.
YOU'RE ON THE TEAM.
SIR?
FALL IN.
RIGHT NOW?
RIGHT NOW.
JUST LIKE THAT?
DOES SHE EVEN HAVE POWERS?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AROUND THE WORLD... YOUR...
AVENGERS!!!
STARK!
I LOVE YOU, SPIDER-WOMAN!
CAPTAIN
ROGERS!
IS THAT A HULK?
WILL YOU REBUILD THE TOWER?
CAPTAIN
WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS?
WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT--?
CAN WE GET THEIR NAMES ONE MORE TIME?
IS THAT THE SAME HULK AS THE GREEN HULK?
A MUTANT? DON'T YOU THINK THAT WILL CAUSE
STARK!
MARRY ME, SPIDER-WOMAN!
CAPTAIN!
STARK!
ROGERS!
WHAT ABOUT SPIDER-MAN? IS IT BECAUSE OF THE OUTBREAK?
ROGERS!
HULK.
CAN YOU CONFIRM THE RED SKULL IS DEAD?
BUCKY BARNES.
I HAVE A QUESTION!
MY NAME IS NORMAN OSBORN AND I WAS OUSTED FROM MY POST AS HEAD OF THE AVENGERS AND DETAINED IN A FEDERAL PRISON AGAINST MY WILL WITHOUT TRIAL.
I'M HERE TO RECTIFY THAT SITUATION!

20

A.I.M. LABORATORIES, LOCATION SECRET.
MADAME HYDRA.
YES, NORMAN.
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
WITH MY HEAD?
IS THAT ON PURPOSE?
YES.
REALLY.
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
DO YOU?
NOT REALLY.
BUT IT WAS EITHER THIS OR STAY DEAD.
YOU WERE DEAD?
IT'S A LONG STORY.
DOES IT HURT? IT LOOKS LIKE IT HURTS.
IT'S THROWING OFF MY BALANCE A LITTLE.
YOU'RE A LEADER OF H.A.M.M.E.R. NOW.
YOU HAVE ALL THE RESOURCES OF A.I.M., THE HAND, HYDRA AND OUR NEW COLLEAGUE WORLD-CLASS GENETICIST DOCTOR WASHINGTON HERE AT YOUR SERVICE.
WOULD YOU LIKE DOCTORS WASHINGTON AND WENTWORTH TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT?
WOULD YOU?
IT'S ODDLY BEAUTIFUL.
IT SMELLS.
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAD H.A.M.M.E.R. INTO A NEW ERA, MADAME HYDRA.
WE NEED YOU LOOKING AND FEELING YOUR BEST.
MISTER OSBORN...THE AVENGERS.
THEY'RE GETTING READY TO ANNOUNCE THEIR NEW LINEUP TO THE WORLD.
THE PRESS IS THERE. WE'RE IN PLACE.
WELL THEN, LET'S MAKE OUR INTENTIONS KNOWN.

AVENGERS MANSION.
AVENGERS!
WAIT!
MY ARMOR IS PICKING UP--
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
I CAN HANDLE CROWD CONTROL.
THIS GUY IS NUTS!

I REPEAT, MY NAME IS NORMAN OSBORN AND I WAS OUSTED FROM MY POST AS HEAD OF THE AVENGERS AND DETAINED IN A FEDERAL PRISON AGAINST MY WILL WITHOUT TRIAL.
IT WAS A COUP D'ÉTAT CONCOCTED BY COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS AND TONY STARK AND THE REST OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED AVENGERS.
IT'S A HOLOGRAM.
THE HELL--?
I KNOW THE MEDIA HAS PAINTED A PICTURE OF ME AS A MADMAN, BUT THAT IS BECAUSE THESE AVENGERS USE ALL THE MANIPULATIONS AT THEIR INCREDIBLE DISPOSAL TO KEEP THEMSELVES IN POWER AND TO DESTROY ANYONE WHO STANDS IN THEIR WAY.
ANYONE.
EVEN FORMER AVENGERS!
YOU'RE LIVING IN A MILITARY STATE WHETHER YOU REALIZE IT OR NOT AND THE AVENGERS ARE PARTLY THE REASON YOU'RE THERE.
BUT DO NOT WORRY, AMERICA... WE WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.
WE WILL FIGHT BACK.
SHUT THIS DOWN.
DO the BEST

WE ♥ YOU AV
H.A.M.M.E.R. IS ALIVE AND WELL AND READY TO FIGHT FOR YOU.
FOR YOUR TRUE FREEDOM.
NO MORE SECRETS.
WAIT, DON'T--
NO MORE LIES AND NO MORE AVEN--
WE ♥ YOU AV
THUM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
NY AV
I SHUT IT DOWN.
TRANSMISSION SUSPENDED.
I THOUGHT THAT WENT RATHER WELL.

NOW I CAN'T TRIANGULATE THE SIGNAL!
I DON'T APPRECIATE YOU SPEAKING TO ME LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF THE PRESS.
I CAN STILL TINKER WITH IT...I THINK--
SORRY.
STARK!
CAPTAIN!
ROGERS!
IS IT TRUE?!
IS OSBORN NO LONGER IN CUSTODY?
WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT--?
WHO IS IN CHARGE?
WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS?
IS THERE GOING TO BE AN INVESTIGATION?

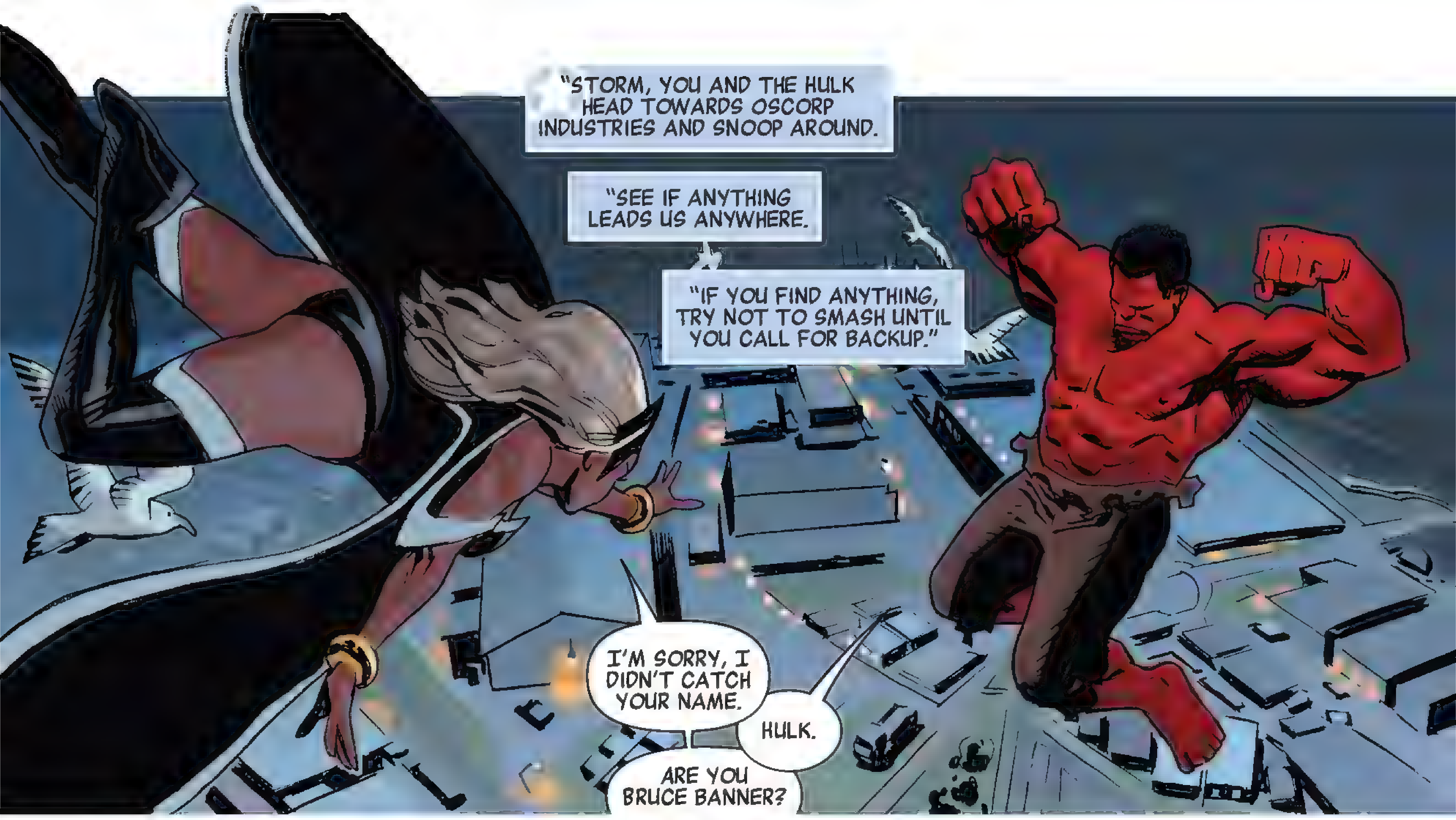
TARK!
WHY ARE YOU HIDING BEHIND THE FLAG?
WHY DID YOU LOCK HIM UP IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WHO GAVE YOU THE AUTHORITY?
WHO RE THESE EOPLE?!
APTAIN
WERE YOU AWARE--?
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS!
ROGERS!
I HAVE A QUESTION!
TARK!
HE WAS BLAMED FOR THE FALL OF ASGARD, ARE WE TO BELIEVE THAT?!
OSBORN ESCAPED!
WHEN WERE WE GOING TO BE TOLD?
GERS!
CAPTAIN!
DO YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE PUBLIC ELECTIONS FOR THE AVENGERS--
TARK!
WHO IS IN CHARGE?
CAPTAIN!
OGERS?
STARK!
ROGER
IS WHAT OSBORN IS SAYING TRUE?
CAN YOU CONFIRM THE RED SKULL IS DEAD?
ROGERS!
STARK!
APTAIN!
WHO IS IN CHARGE?!

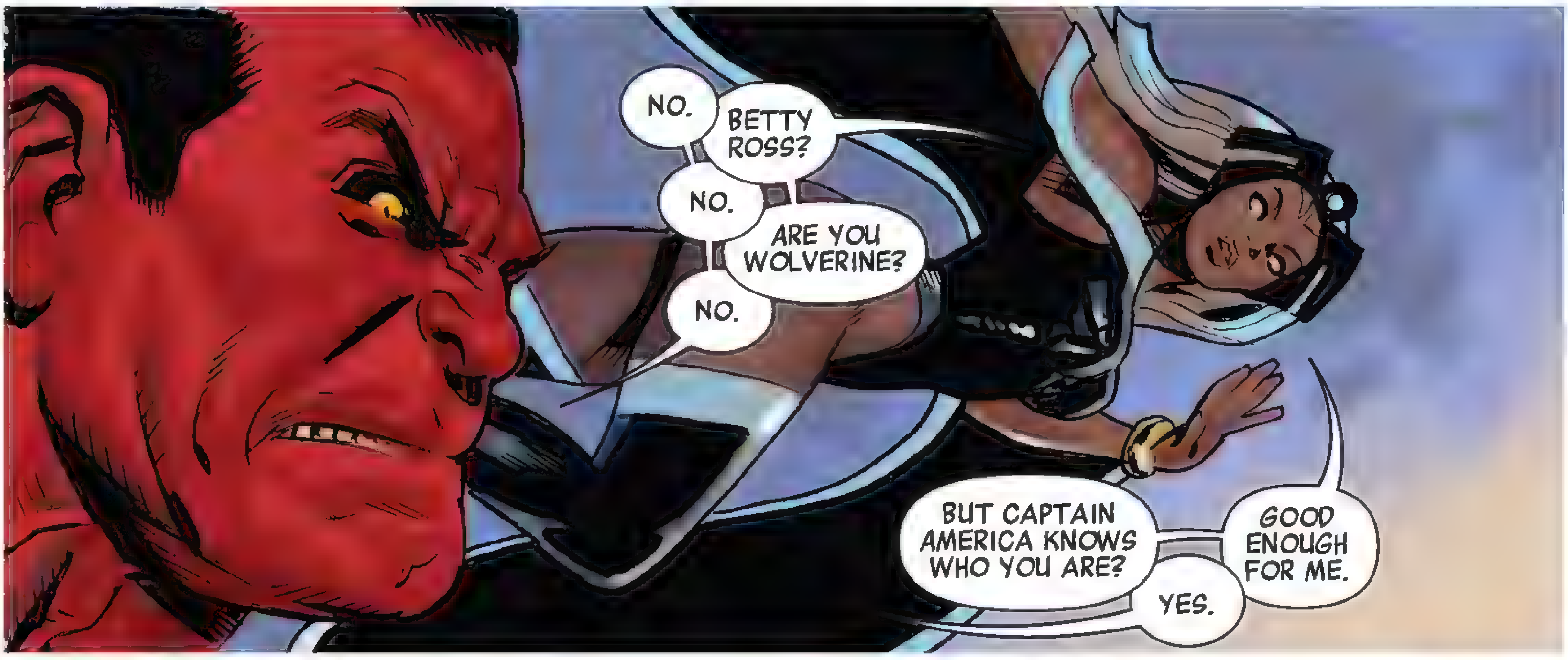
I HAVE A PLAN.
THERE SHE IS.
HOW DO YOU FEEL, MADAME HYDRA?
HOW DO I *LOOK?*
CAPTAIN AMERICA DOESN'T TAKE LIGHTLY TO INSULT.
HE SEES HIMSELF AS THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR BUT EVERY TIME THE GOING GETS TOUGH... HE QUITS.
HE *IS* A QUITTER.
THIS MEDIA ATTACK YOU'VE LAUNCHED...IT'S WONDERFUL.
FIRST STRIKE. PERFECTLY EXECUTED.
WE USE THE MACHINE *AGAINST* HIM.
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT WE ARE.
HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR.
HE DOESN'T KNOW WE HAVE THE RESOURCES OF THE ENTIRE SUPER-POWERED WORLD AT OUR DISPOSAL.
HE IS GOING TO COME LOOKING FOR US.
HE HAS TO.
YES.
SO HERE'S THE PLAN...

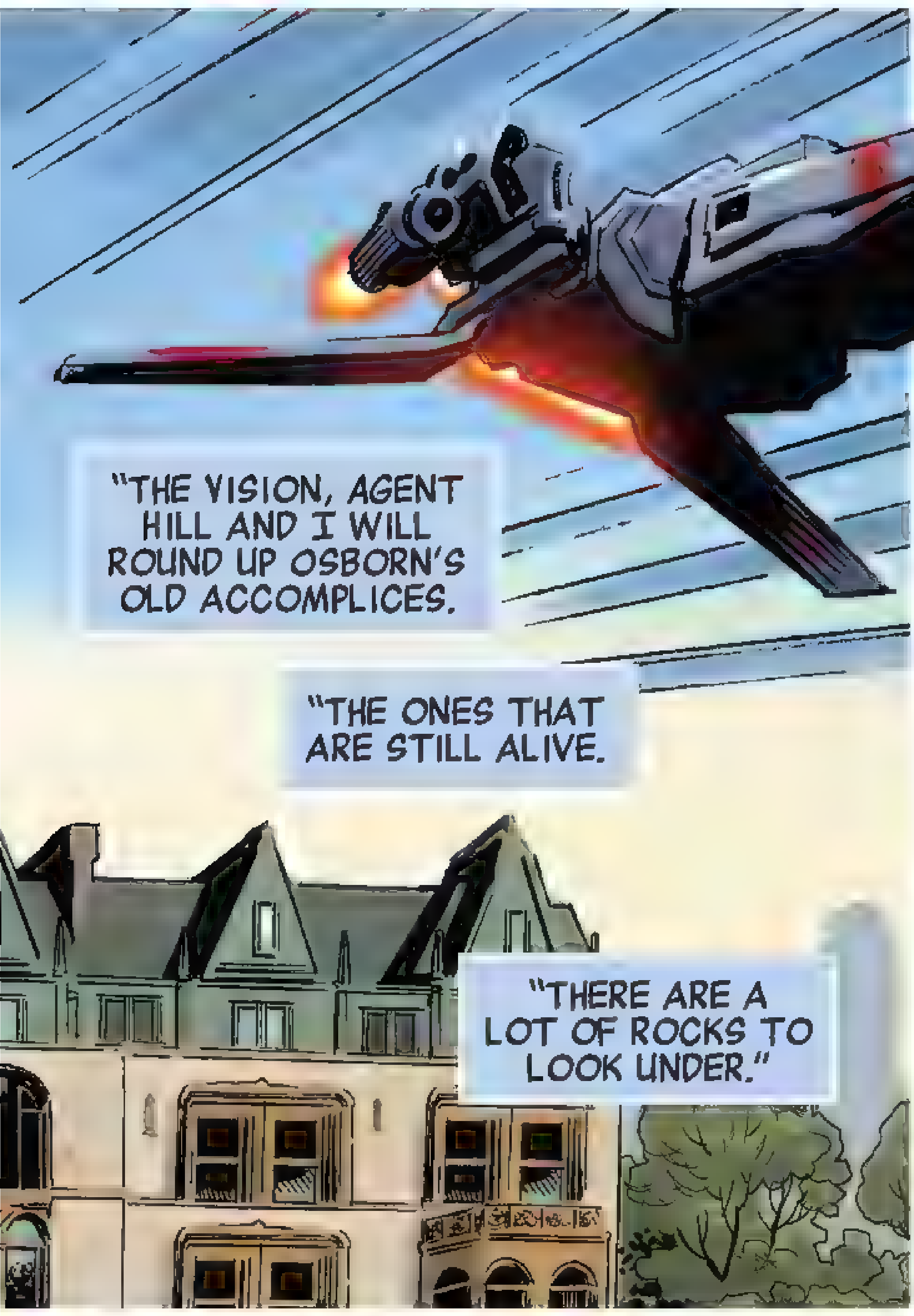
AVENGERS MANSION, BACK COURTYARD. LATER.
IS OSBORN RIGHT?
NO.
WELL, HE'S *NOT WRONG.*
CLINT.
WHAT DID HE SAY THAT WAS WRONG?
HE *WAS* HELD WITHOUT TRIAL.
HE *DID* ESCAPE UNDER OUR WATCH.
HE *DOES* THINK HE'S THE KING OF THE WORLD.
HE *IS* UP OUR BUTTS AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW BIG HIS FOLLOWING IS OR WHAT HE IS CAPABLE OF.
COME ON, YOU HATE HIM EVEN MORE THAN SPIDER-MAN DOES.
I DO.
BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE HIM WRONG.
ARE YOU PEOPLE *REALLY* GOING TO UNDERESTIMATE HIM?
AFTER *ALL* HE'S DONE?
LAST TIME WE WENT THROUGH THIS WITH HIM HE TOOK OUR TOWER LIKE AN INVADING KINGDOM.
HE IS A COMPLETE AND TOTAL THREAT.
NO ONE IS UNDERESTIMATING HIM.
THEN WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE'RE GOING TO GO KNOCK ON HIS DOOR.

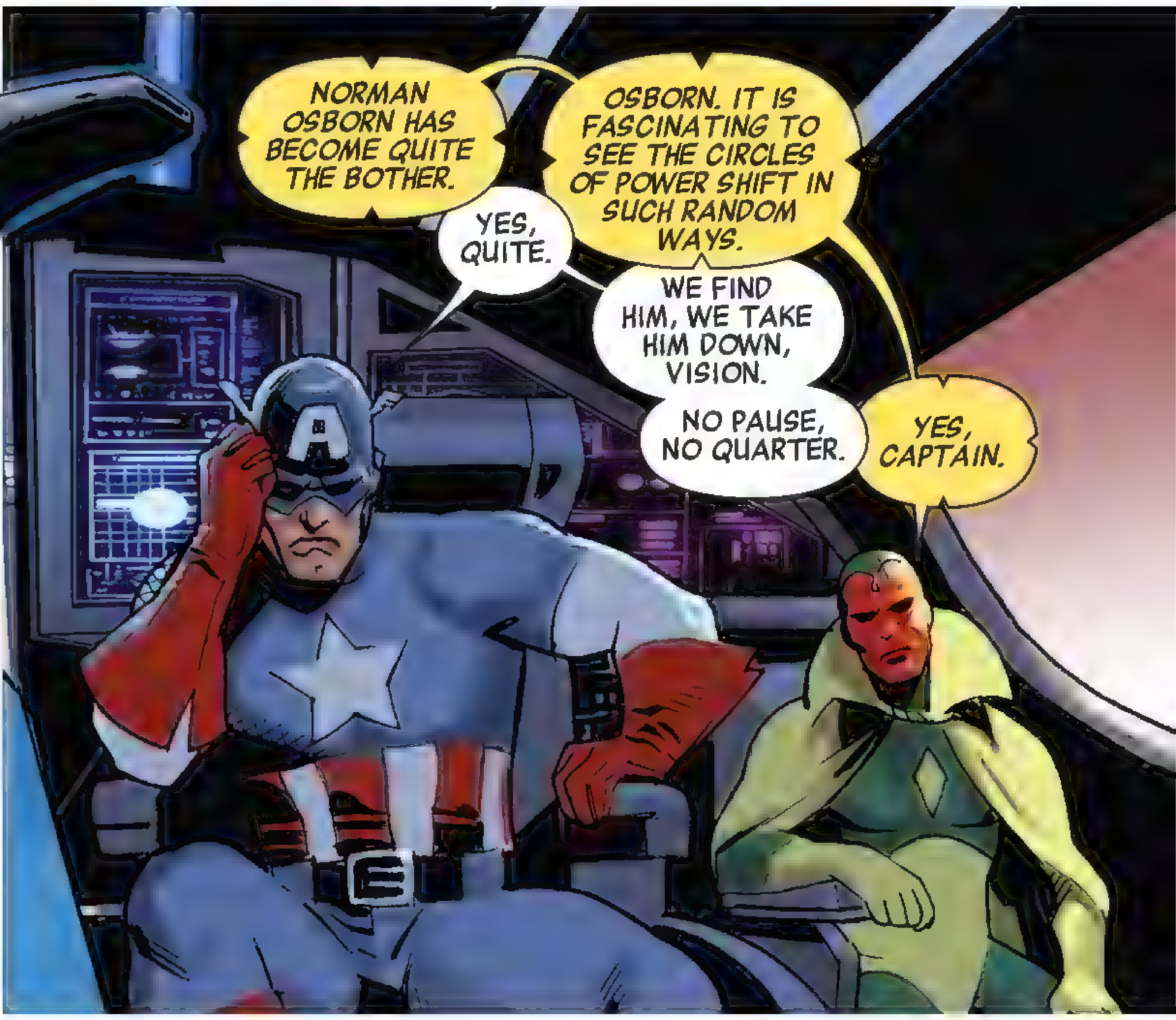
WE'RE GOING TO SPLIT UP AND DO SOME DISCOVERY WORK.
HE'S SOMEWHERE ON THIS PLANET AND HE IS CLEARLY TAKING UP SOME REAL ESTATE TO DO IT.
AND MY GUESS, AFTER WHAT I JUST WITNESSED WITH THE NEW AVENGERS, HE HAS EITHER TEAMED UP WITH A.I.M. OR IS USING A LOT OF THEIR TECH SIGNATURE.
YOU OKAY?
NO. I'M ANGRY.
MY GUT SAYS HE IS READY FOR US.
MORE THAN READY.
HE SHOWED UP ON OUR DOORSTEP AND DECLARED WAR.
HE *MUST* BE READY.
OR CRAZY.
IF WE GET THERE AND FIND OUT HE IS A BLUBBERING LOON, WE CAN BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED.
LET'S PLAN FOR THE WORST.
EXACTLY.
QUAKE.
I WANT YOU TO SIFT THROUGH THE MEDIA FOOTAGE OF OUR FRONT LAWN.
I WANT EVERYONE'S FOOTAGE.
SOMEONE PUT OSBORN THERE AND PRESSED PLAY.
I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO MEET THAT PERSON.
ON IT.
NOW HERE'S WHAT I NEED FROM YOU.

"HAWKEYE, YOU AND AGENT DREW HEAD TO THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.
"I DON'T THINK HE'D BE THAT INSANE AS TO SET UP SHOP THERE BUT HE *IS* INSANE AND WE CAN'T RULE ANYTHING OUT.
"EITHER WAY, THERE MAY BE CLUES AS TO WHERE HE IS."
THIS DOESN'T COUNT AS A DATE.
SURE IT DOES.
"IRON MAN, YOU AND THE PROTECTOR HEAD TOWARDS ANY LAST-KNOWN A.I.M. LABORATORY LOCATIONS.
"CHASE ANY LEAD YOU CAN FIND.
"KEEP US UPDATED CONSTANTLY."
I'VE NEVER SEEN CAPTAIN AMERICA LIKE THAT.
I HAVE.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IT MEANS OSBORN'S GOING TO HAVE A SHIELD-SHAPED **DENT** IN HIS HEAD.


"STORM, YOU AND THE HULK HEAD TOWARDS OSCORP INDUSTRIES AND SNOOP AROUND.
"SEE IF ANYTHING LEADS US ANYWHERE.
"IF YOU FIND ANYTHING, TRY NOT TO SMASH UNTIL YOU CALL FOR BACKUP."
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME.
HULK.
ARE YOU BRUCE BANNER?


NO.
BETTY ROSS?
NO.
ARE YOU WOLVERINE?
NO.
BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA KNOWS WHO YOU ARE?
YES.
GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.


"THE VISION, AGENT HILL AND I WILL ROUND UP OSBORN'S OLD ACCOMPLICES.
"THE ONES THAT ARE STILL ALIVE.
"THERE ARE A LOT OF ROCKS TO LOOK UNDER."


NORMAN OSBORN HAS BECOME QUITE THE BOTHER.
YES, QUITE.
OSBORN. IT IS FASCINATING TO SEE THE CIRCLES OF POWER SHIFT IN SUCH RANDOM WAYS.
WE FIND HIM, WE TAKE HIM DOWN, VISION.
NO PAUSE, NO QUARTER.
YES, CAPTAIN.

THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN, THIS IS AVENGERS QUINJET 7.
I REPEAT THIS IS AVENGERS QUINJET 7 ON OFFICIAL AVENGERS BUSINESS.
PLEASE RESPOND.
(OR DON'T.)
IS ANYBODY RESPONDING?
NOPE.
IS ANYBODY HERE?
YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW.
YOU USED TO LIVE HERE THOUGH, RIGHT?
A MILLION YEARS AGO.
IF I LIVE TO A THOUSAND I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW OSBORN GOT TO A POSITION OF POWER LIKE THIS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE ARE BUYING INTO HIS #$@#.
CLOSE YOUR EYES, PUT YOUR FINGER DOWN ON ANY PAGE IN ANY HISTORY BOOK AND YOU'LL FIND THE NAME OF A LUNATIC NARCISSIST WHO FOUND ENOUGH PEOPLE TO BUY WHATEVER HE WAS SELLING.
TALE AS OLD AS TIME.
YEAH, BUT YOU'D THINK WITH MODERN--
SSHH!
HELLO?
IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

MY NAME IS S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT DEREK YOUNG.
I'M--I'M STATIONED HERE.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER US?
ANSWER YOU WHEN?
WHEN WE LANDED? WE PUT OUT AN ALL CALL.
I-I'M EMBARRASSED TO SAY IT BUT I WAS IN THE BATHROOM.
I'M GONNA NEED TO SEE SOME FORM OF IDENTIFICATION.
ACTUALLY, I KINDA NEED TO SEE SOME FORM OF IDENTIFICATION FROM YOU.
...ACTUALLY, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
I WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO STALL YOU LONG ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO GET INTO POSITION.

HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!

CAPTAIN, THIS IS STORM. THE HULK AND I HAVE LANDED AT OSCORP INDUSTRIES.
OVER.
OSCORP
WHAT DID HE SAY?
NOTHING. I'M NOT GETTING A SIGNAL.
WAIT, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
WHAT?
LIKE A BUZZING.
NNYYAAGGHH!
WHAT IS HAPPENING?! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
GGKKSS!

HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!
ZZZCCHHOOOO
ZZZCCHHOOOO
NNAAAARRGHH!

WHERE ARE WE?
PHILADELPHIA.
BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE THIS A.I.M. IS?
THIS A.I.M. IS AN ORGANIZATION BENT ON THE OVERTHROW OF ALL GOVERNMENTS IN FAVOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE.
TECHNOLOGY AS GOVERNMENT?
I GUESS.
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL... VIOLENT IDEA.
DO YOU WANT ME TO PICK YOU UP AN APPLICATION FORM?
NO NO.
BUT YOU MUST ADMIT IT IS A LOVELY IDEA, THOUGH. IN THEORY.
IN ACTUALITY IT'S A BIG PAIN IN MY-- HOLD ON.
WHAT?
THERE'S SOME SORT OF FLUCTUATION.
CAP, THIS IS TONY.
WE'RE OUTSIDE WHAT WAS M.O.D.O.K.'S A.I.M. BASE NINE.
I'M GETTING A--
WHAT IS IT?
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!

CAPTAIN AMERICA, THIS IS NOH-VARR. IRON MAN HAS BEEN COMPROMISED!
I REPEAT, IRON MAN HAS BEEN--!
BOOOM

IRON MAN, THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA.
COME IN, TONY.
NOTHING?
TONY, THIS IS CAP. *COME IN?*
NO ONE IS ANSWERING?
THERE'S A PROTOCOL FOR THIS.
YOU'RE RIGHT, TURN IT AROUND.
WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL?
INFORM THE MANSION AND THE WHITE HOUSE.
THIS IS A LEVEL BLACK --HOLD ON.
EVASIVE MANEUVERS WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

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THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
WHAT DO YOU *IDIOTS* THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!
WHACK
JESSICA, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--?
ZZAPTT
I'M AGENT JESSICA DREW!
FFGAHH!

YOU'RE AGENTS OF HYDRA, RIGHT?!
OF--OF H.A.M.M.E.R.
PLEASE!!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? I RECOGNIZE THE PANTS.
YOU'RE HYDRA. I'M HYDRA!
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS--WAIT, I KNOW YOU.
I--
YOU'RE-- YOU'RE YOUNG. AGENT YOUNG.
YOU ARE HYDRA. WE'VE MET BEFORE.
I--
IN MADRIPOOR.
HOW IDIOTIC ARE YOU?!
HELLO?! I'M AN UNDERCOVER HYDRA AGENT.
I'M HERE ON ORDERS OF THE MADAME HERSELF. MADAME HYDRA? MY MOTHER? HELLO?
YEARS OF MY LIFE WASTED INFILTRATING THE AVENGERS BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO BACK OFF!
NOW MY COVER IS BLOWN.
KILL HAWKEYE!
BUT IF YOU TOUCH ONE $%&# HAIR ON MY HEAD SHE WILL FLAY YOU.
TRY ME.
BECAUSE WHAT SHE'S GOING TO CUT OFF ON YOU...
...TWO MORE AIN'T GROWING BACK IN ITS PLACE.
YOU HEARD ME!
YOU'VE BLOWN MY COVER, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS HELP ME LOAD HIM ONTO THE QUINJET AND TAKE HIM BACK TO BASE.

FUNNY, THAT IS *EXACTLY* WHAT MADAME HYDRA SAID YOU WOULD SAY.
WELL, IT WAS A NICE TRY.
DAMN.
THOUGHT I HAD THEM.
SHE'S MUCH HOTTER IN PERSON.
IS SHE REALLY MADAME HYDRA'S DAUGHTER?
HULKS WITH SPIDER POWERS.
OKAY, I'LL GIVE THEM POINTS FOR SOMETHING.
GOTTA GET TO A PHONE.
CLINT IS GOING TO KILL ME.

FUMP
GGKA--
GOT YA!
@#$@#$!
ZZAAST
AGH!
BOOM!
SLAM!

LONG ISLAND, OSCORP INDUSTRIES PLANT 7. CLOSED.
NNAAAAARRRGHH!
THE RED HULK WON'T FALL.
HE WILL.
POKE OUT HIS FRONTAL LOBE.
IT'LL KILL HIM.
ZZZCCHHOOOO
ONE LESS HULK IN THE WORLD.

FOOM
BASE, THIS IS LEGEND ONE. IT'S DONE.
THE HULK AND STORM ARE DOWN.
SEND TRANSPORT.

SIMONSON INDUSTRIAL PARK.
FORMER FRONT OF A.I.M.
THIS IS KREE ENSIGN NOH-VARR, AVENGERS CODENAME: THE PROTECTOR.
I HAVE JUST BEEN ATTACKED. BY IRON MAN.
CAPTAIN AMERICA, CAN YOU READ ME?
I REPEAT: I HAVE JUST BEEN ATTACKED BY IRON MAN.
THE ONLY LOGICAL EXPLANATION IS THAT IRON MAN'S ARMOR HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.
CAN YOU READ ME?
IRON MAN HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.
FSSHAAAAMMMM

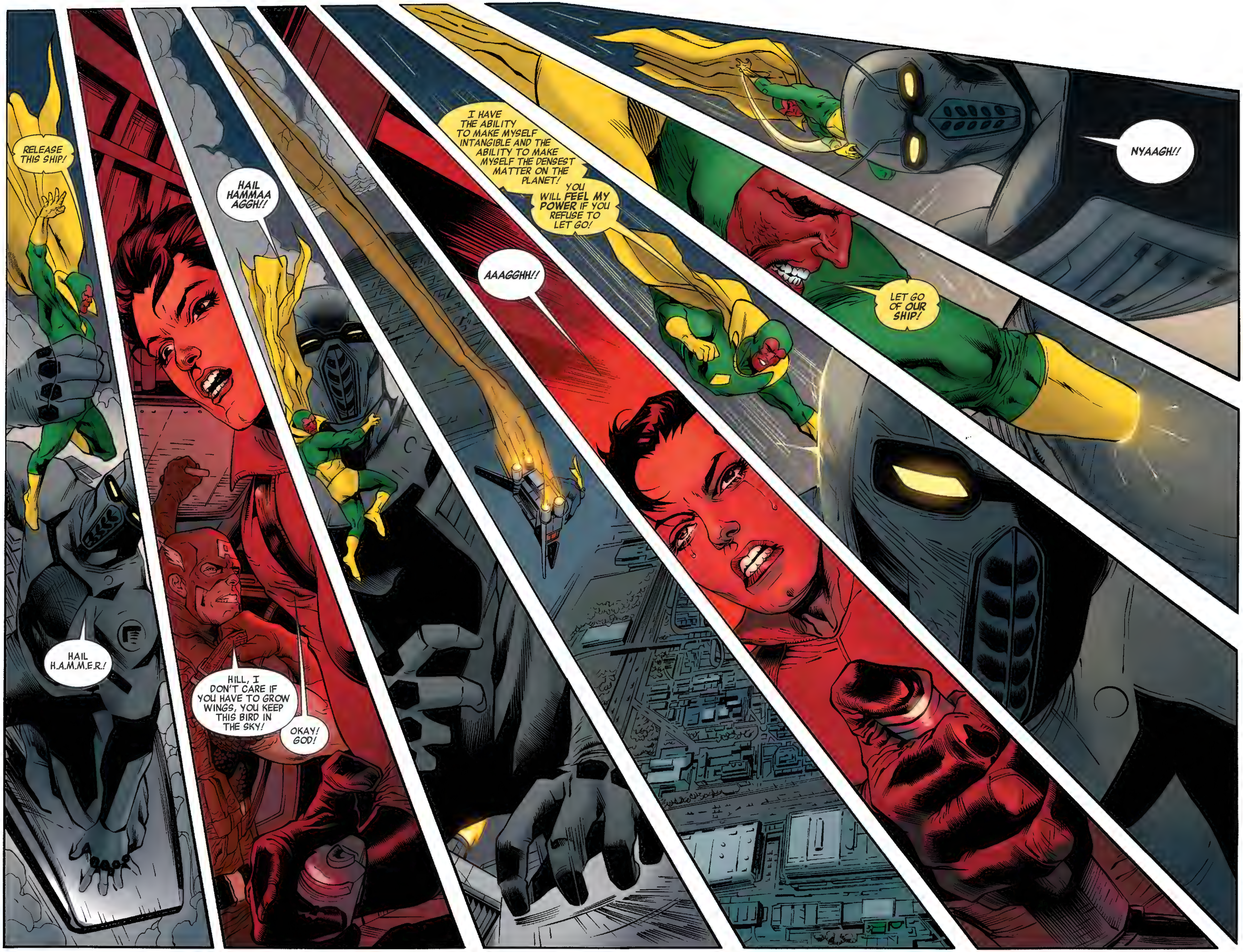
I AM NOT READING YOU, CAPTAIN, BUT I WILL CONTINUE TO BROADCAST IN THE HOPE THAT YOU ARE READING ME.
LOGIC WOULD DICTATE THAT IF IRON MAN HAS BEEN COMPROMISED, WHICH IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE, THEN MAYBE ALL AVENGERS PARTIES ARE IN SOME SORT OF HOSTILE SITUATION.
SHUTTING DOWN OUR COMMUNICATIONS IS THE FIRST STRIKE.
MY ALIEN-BASED TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE ALLOWS ME PERFECT INSIGHT ON JUST HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO HACK INTO TONY STARK'S BIOENGINEERED ARMOR.
DO WE ASSUME THIS IS OSBORN'S WORK?
FASHOOOM
I WILL ATTEMPT TO SUBDUE STARK AND--
AGH!

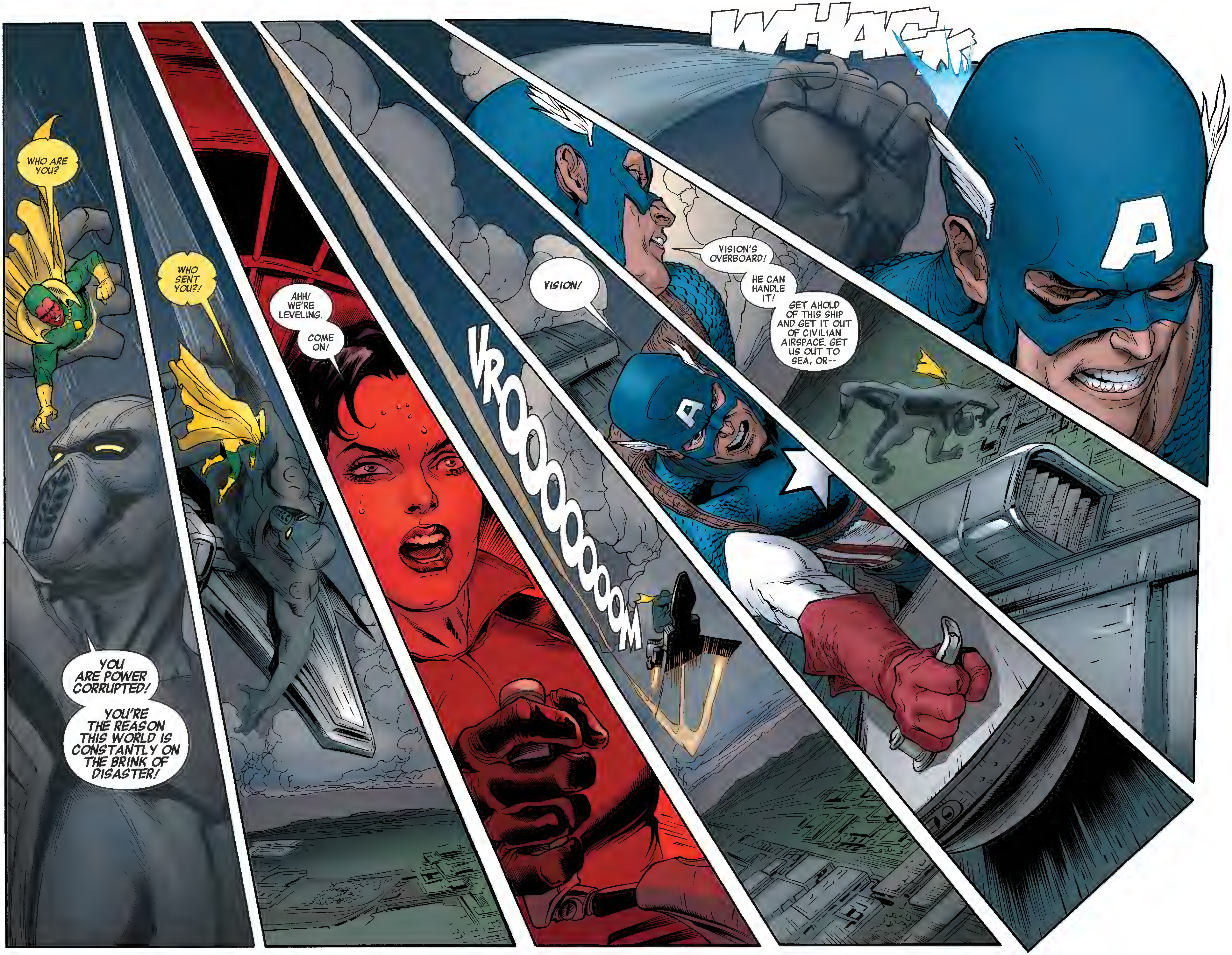
KTANG
5
I'VE ATTACHED AN OVERRIDE DEVICE THAT MAY SHUT DOWN THE STARK TECH AT LEAST LONG ENOUGH TO--*AGH!*
FHSAM
AGH!
AVENGERS!
ANYONE WHO CAN HEAR THIS--!

I HAVE MOMENTARILY COMPROMISED THE STARK TECH ENERGY FLOW.
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, IRON MAN IS DOWN.
I WILL TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH STARK HIMSELF.
HOPEFULLY HE'S ALIVE IN THERE.
KLANG
TONY STARK, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
GET OUT OF HERE, KID! I AM NOT IN CONTROL!
TELL ME THE OVERRIDE CODE TO GET THIS OFF YOU!
GET OUT OF HERE!
FABOOM
FUMP
WHOEVER YOU ARE
I HOPE YOU CAN HEAR ME
YOU BETTER FIGURE OUT A WAY TO KILL ME RIGHT NOW
BECAUSE I PROMISE
I PROMISE

RR! COME ON!
RUNCH

AVENGERS QUINCARRIER.
SON OF A--!
WE'RE HIT!
WHAT IS IT?!
SENSORS ARE DOWN! I'M LOSING ALTITUDE!
I THINK SOMETHING IS RIGHT ON TOP OF US!
VISION!
I'M ALREADY THERE.
SSSHHHAAAAA
CEASE AND DESIST.


RELEASE THIS SHIP!
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!
HILL, I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE TO GROW WINGS, YOU KEEP THIS BIRD IN THE SKY!
OKAY! GOD!
HAIL HAMMAA AGGH!!
AAAGGHH!!
I HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE MYSELF INTANGIBLE AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE MYSELF THE DENSEST MATTER ON THE PLANET!
YOU WILL FEEL MY POWER IF YOU REFUSE TO LET GO!
LET GO OF OUR SHIP!
NYAAGH!!


WHO ARE YOU?
WHO SENT YOU?!
YOU ARE POWER CORRUPTED!
YOU'RE THE REASON THIS WORLD IS CONSTANTLY ON THE BRINK OF DISASTER!
AHH! WE'RE LEVELING.
COME ON!
VROOOOOOOM
VISION!
VISION'S OVERBOARD!
HE CAN HANDLE IT!
GET AHOLD OF THIS SHIP AND GET IT OUT OF CIVILIAN AIRSPACE. GET US OUT TO SEA, OR--
WHACK

CRASH THIS DAMN SHIP! THROW IT TO THE GROUND!
I WANT TO SEE IT BURN SO BAD!
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DOWN!
CRACK
AGH!

FOOM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CONTROLLING MY DENSITY!
YOU CANNOT STOP WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL US!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
FOOM FOOM FOOM
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!

MY GOD!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
OF COURSE IT IS.
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.
WELL #@$%.
WHACK!
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.
TELL OSBORN, THE MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL.
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DOWN.

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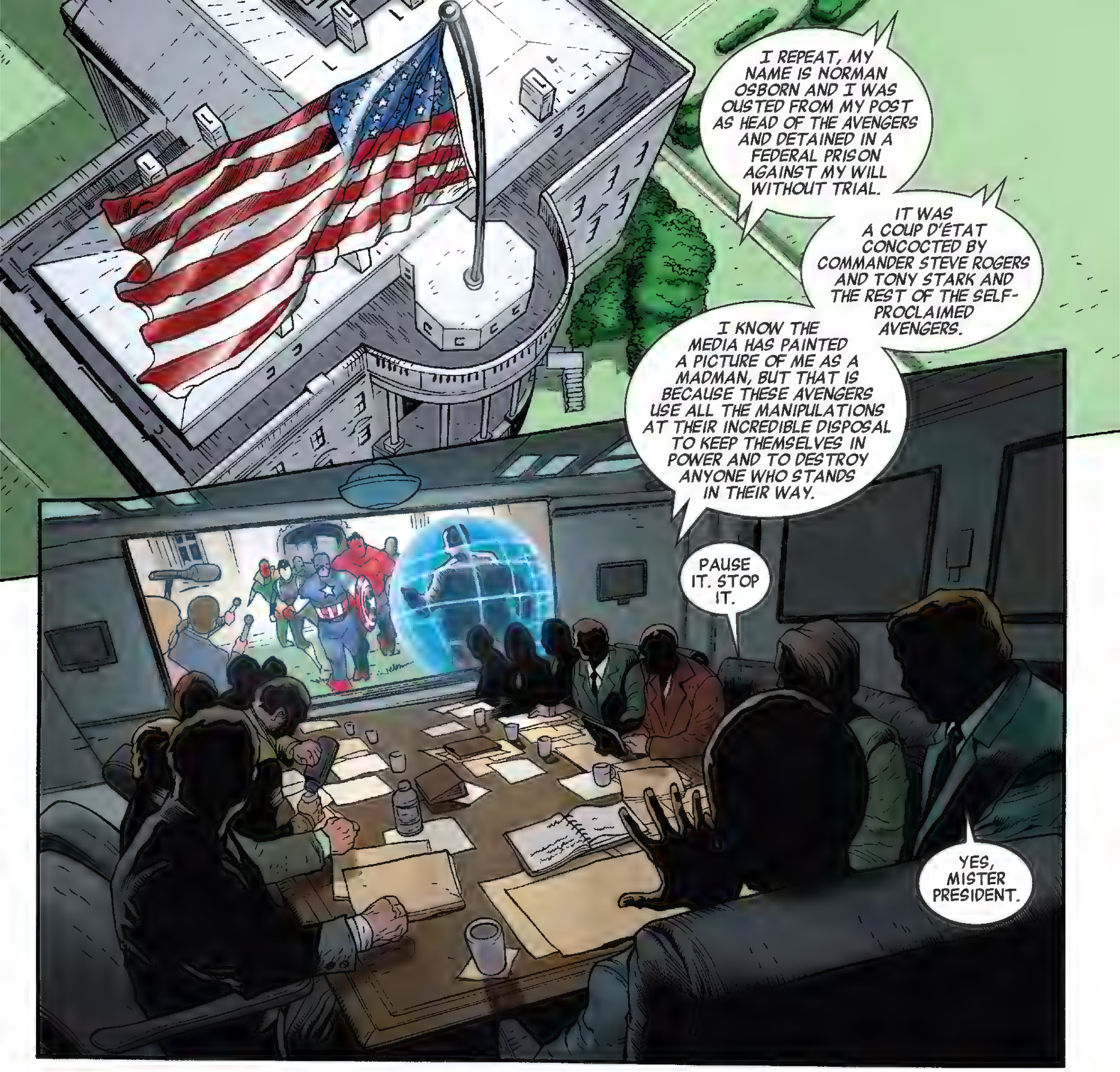
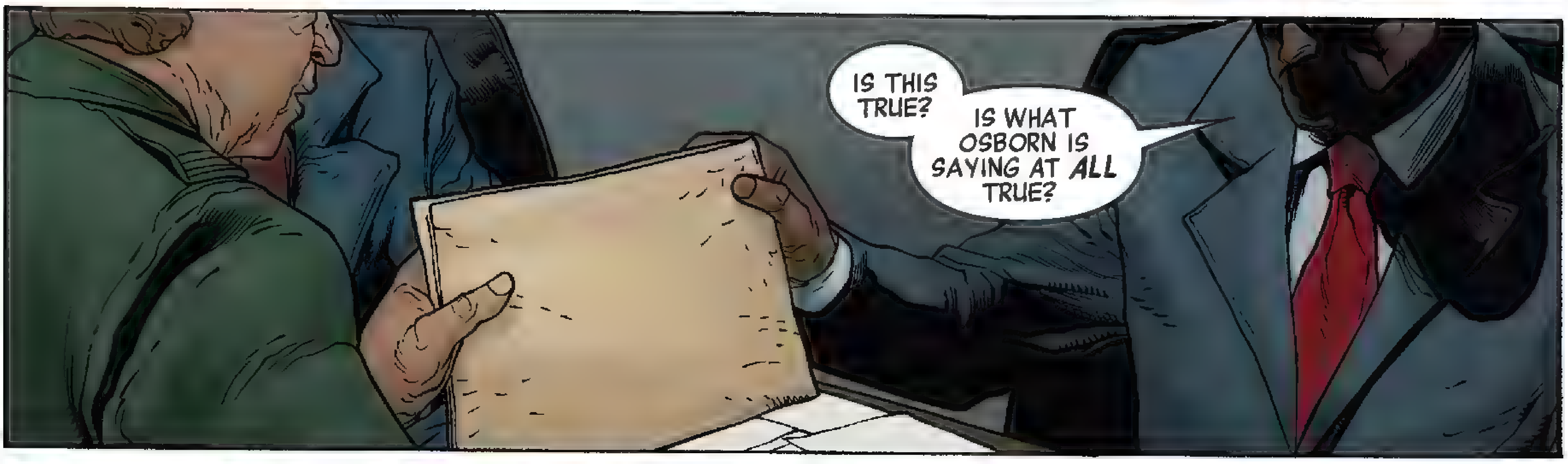
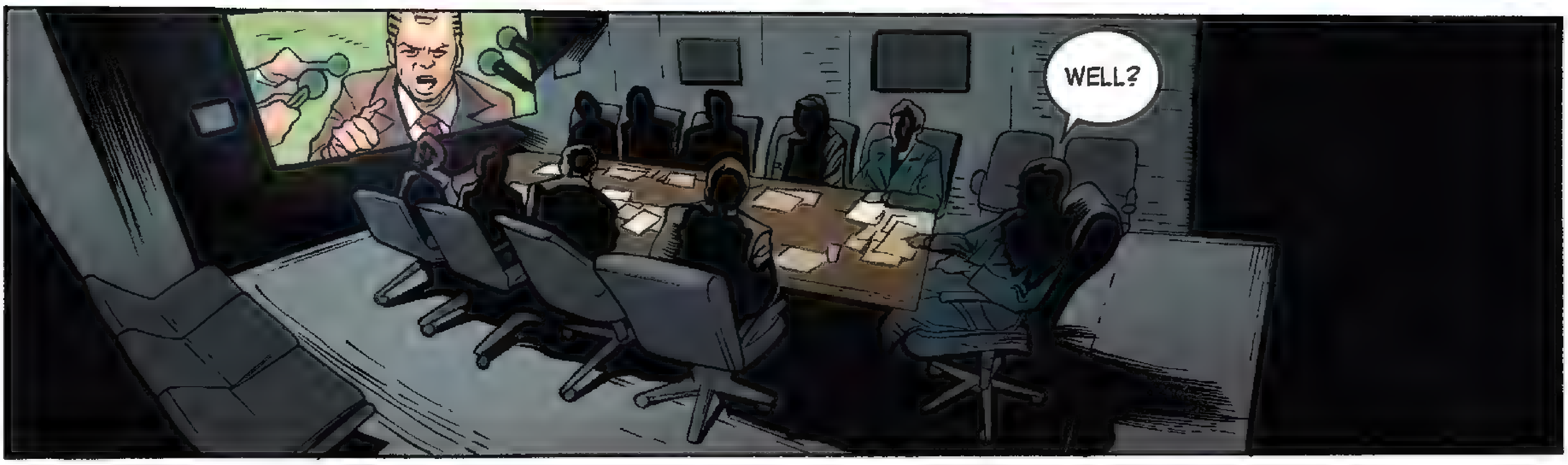

I REPEAT, MY NAME IS NORMAN OSBORN AND I WAS OUSTED FROM MY POST AS HEAD OF THE AVENGERS AND DETAINED IN A FEDERAL PRISON AGAINST MY WILL WITHOUT TRIAL.
IT WAS A COUP D'ÉTAT CONCOCTED BY COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS AND TONY STARK AND THE REST OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED AVENGERS.
I KNOW THE MEDIA HAS PAINTED A PICTURE OF ME AS A MADMAN, BUT THAT IS BECAUSE THESE AVENGERS USE ALL THE MANIPULATIONS AT THEIR INCREDIBLE DISPOSAL TO KEEP THEMSELVES IN POWER AND TO DESTROY ANYONE WHO STANDS IN THEIR WAY.
PAUSE IT. STOP IT.
YES, MISTER PRESIDENT.


IS THIS TRUE?
IS WHAT OSBORN IS SAYING AT ALL TRUE?


WELL?

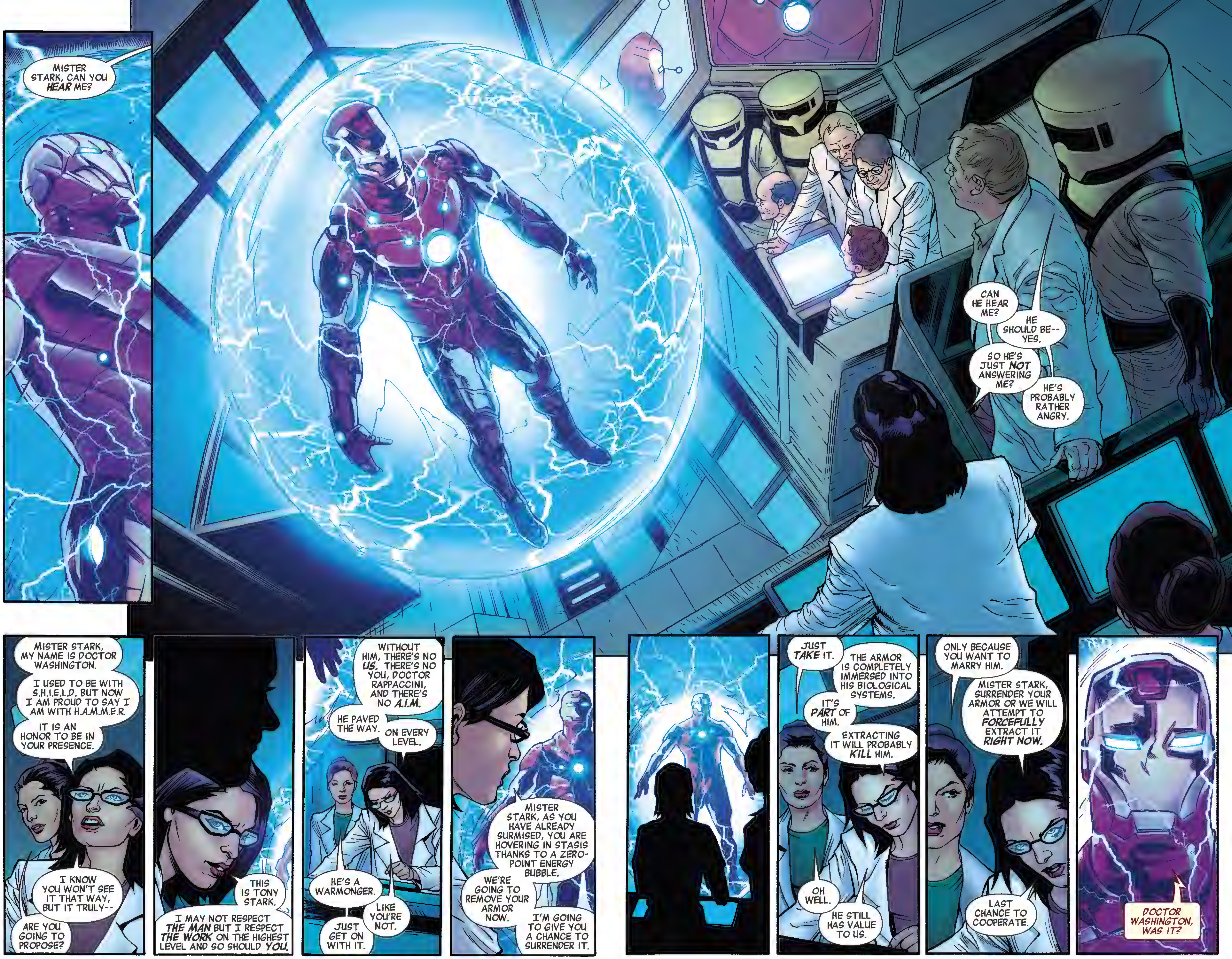
WELL, IN A WAY, SIR, YES.
OH MY GOD.
YOU KNOW AND I KNOW... PEOPLE DON'T CARE WHERE THE SUPER-POWERED BAD GUYS GO AFTER THEY'VE BEEN BAD...
THEY DON'T CARE IF THEY ARE GIVEN DUE PROCESS...
THEY JUST WANT CAPTAIN AMERICA TO PUNCH THEM IN THE FACE AND GET THEM GONE.
WE GIVE THE AVENGERS A LOT OF LEEWAY BECAUSE THE PUBLIC LOVES THEM.
AND THEY TAKE A LOT OF LEEWAY BECAUSE THEY CAN.
JUST LIKE WE DO... EVERY DAY.
YES.
BUT...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY...
NORMAN OSBORN IS INSANE.
YES, SIR.
BUT... HE'S NOT WRONG.
WE DID PUT HIM IN PRISON FOR TREASON AND INSUBORDINATION.
THE KIND OF INSUBORDINATION THAT TONY STARK HAS BEEN GUILTY OF FIFTY TIMES OVER.
TRUTH BE TOLD--IT WAS ONLY GOING TO TAKE ONE OF THESE LUNATICS TO SMASH THE SUPER-POWERED STATUS QUO IN THIS COUNTRY...
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE MAGNETO.
OR VON DOOM.
YES, SURE... BUT IT'S OSBORN.
REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE MIGHT THINK OF HIM... HE IS SPEAKING A HARD TRUTH TO A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THE SAME AS HIM.
HE'S GALVANIZED SOMETHING THAT--
IF I MAY, SIR, WE'RE GETTING A LOT OF CHATTER HERE.
WE HAVE GROUND REPORTS AND SATELLITE FOOTAGE...
OSBORN'S MADE HIS MOVE.
JEEZ.
WHAT DOES HE WANT?
IF HE HAS, AS INTEL HAS INDICATED, SUCCESSFULLY COORDINATED THE EFFORTS OF H.A.M.M.E.R., THE HAND, A.I.M. AND HYDRA AND KNOCKED ROGERS OFF HIS PEDESTAL THIS FAST...

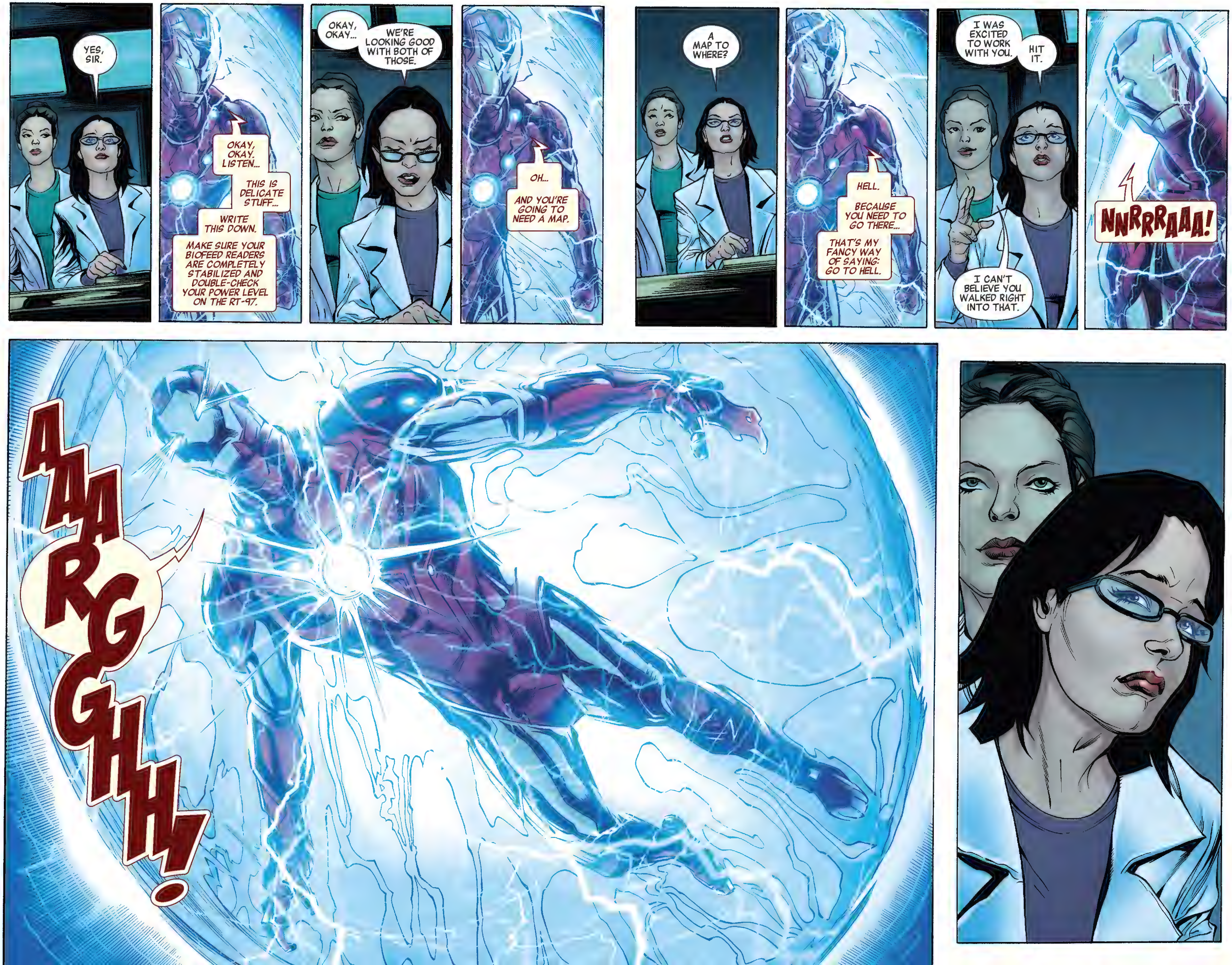
"...IT ISN'T REALLY ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS ANYMORE...
"IT'S ABOUT WHAT DO *WE* HAVE TO OFFER *HIM.*"
CAPTAIN.
CAPTAIN AMERICA?
RISE AND SHINE, SOLDIER.
THERE YOU GO...
THAT'S THE AMERICAN SPIRIT.
I REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU FACE-TO-FACE, CAPTAIN.
WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY, YOU AND I.
ONE I'M ODDLY PROUD OF... WHICH, I KNOW, IN ITSELF IS AN ODD THING TO SAY.
BUT I TOLD YOU YEARS AGO THAT THIS DAY WOULD HAPPEN. AND WELL, HERE WE ARE.
THAT DAY IS HERE.
HAIL HYDRA.
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.
YOU'RE DONE.

YOU PROBABLY KNOW BY NOW THAT WE'VE TAKEN YOUR TEAM OF AVENGERS DOWN.
RATHER COMPLETELY.
AND RIGHT NOW, AS WE SPEAK, NORMAN HAS ASSEMBLED HIS OWN TEAM AND IS VERY FOCUSED ON TAKING DOWN THAT LUKE CAGE AND SPIDER-MAN GROUP OF AVENGERS.
WHATEVER *THAT* IS.
HE'S VERY INSISTENT ON DOING THAT HIMSELF IN HIS OWN PARTICULAR WAY.
YOU AND *ALL* YOUR AVENGERS HAVE GOTTEN UNDER HIS SKIN.
WHICH MEANS YOUR STUDENTS AT THE AVENGERS ACADEMY...
WELL, WE'RE LOOKING INTO WHICH ONES WILL TURN TO SEE THINGS OUR WAY AND WHICH ONES NEED TO BE DONE AWAY WITH ALTOGETHER.
THEN WHY AM I STILL ALIVE, "MADAME" HYDRA?
BECAUSE DEAD YOU WILL BE MARTYRED.
ALIVE YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR CRIMES.
CRIMES?
YOUR *WAR* CRIMES.
CRIMES AGAINST THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY.
CRIMES AGAINST THE *WORLD.*
EVERYONE *HAS* TO PAY THE PRICE EVENTUALLY.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
SEE, YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ON BORROWED TIME, CAPTAIN.
AND I KNOW YOU KNOW IT TOO.

I KNOW SOME NIGHTS YOU LAY YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE PILLOW AND YOU WISH, WITH ALL YOUR HEART, THAT YOU WOULD HAVE *DIED* BACK IN WORLD WAR TWO.
EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH TURNS TO RUIN.
THIS COUNTRY, THE AVENGERS, YOUR POOR LITTLE BUCKY.
RR!!
LIKE GOD WANTED YOU TO.
YOU THINK HOW *EASY* IT WOULD BE TO-- TO JUST BE *REMEMBERED*-- RATHER THAN TO HAVE TO LIVE UP TO THE SYMBOL OF A FLAG THAT LOST ITS MEANING YEARS AGO.
YOU DON'T *BELONG* HERE.
YOU NEVER DID.
THIS IS WHY YOUR WAYS DON'T WORK.
YOU'RE A ROUND PEG IN A SQUARE HOLE.
HA HA!
I *LOVE* YOU.
I DO.
KRACK

AGH!
FUMP
RR!!
AND HE TRIES TO GET UP.
YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING.
KRACK


MISTER STARK, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
CAN HE HEAR ME?
HE SHOULD BE-- YES.
SO HE'S JUST NOT ANSWERING ME?
HE'S PROBABLY RATHER ANGRY.
MISTER STARK, MY NAME IS DOCTOR WASHINGTON.
I USED TO BE WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. BUT NOW I AM PROUD TO SAY I AM WITH H.A.M.M.E.R.
IT IS AN HONOR TO BE IN YOUR PRESENCE.
I KNOW YOU WON'T SEE IT THAT WAY, BUT IT TRULY--
ARE YOU GOING TO PROPOSE?
THIS IS TONY STARK.
I MAY NOT RESPECT THE MAN BUT I RESPECT THE WORK ON THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND SO SHOULD YOU.
WITHOUT HIM, THERE'S NO US. THERE'S NO YOU, DOCTOR RAPPACCINI, AND THERE'S NO A.I.M.
HE PAVED THE WAY.
ON EVERY LEVEL.
HE'S A WARMONGER.
LIKE YOU'RE NOT.
JUST GET ON WITH IT.
MISTER STARK, AS YOU HAVE ALREADY SURMISED, YOU ARE HOVERING IN STASIS THANKS TO A ZERO-POINT ENERGY BUBBLE.
WE'RE GOING TO REMOVE YOUR ARMOR NOW.
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO SURRENDER IT.
JUST TAKE IT.
THE ARMOR IS COMPLETELY IMMERSED INTO HIS BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.
IT'S PART OF HIM.
EXTRACTING IT WILL PROBABLY KILL HIM.
OH WELL.
HE STILL HAS VALUE TO US.
ONLY BECAUSE YOU WANT TO MARRY HIM.
MISTER STARK, SURRENDER YOUR ARMOR OR WE WILL ATTEMPT TO FORCEFULLY EXTRACT IT RIGHT NOW.
LAST CHANCE TO COOPERATE.
DOCTOR WASHINGTON, WAS IT?


YES, SIR.
OKAY, OKAY. LISTEN...
THIS IS DELICATE STUFF...
WRITE THIS DOWN.
MAKE SURE YOUR BIOFEED READERS ARE COMPLETELY STABILIZED AND DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR POWER LEVEL ON THE RT-97.
OKAY, OKAY...
WE'RE LOOKING GOOD WITH BOTH OF THOSE.
OH...
AND YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A MAP.
A MAP TO WHERE?
HELL.
BECAUSE YOU NEED TO GO THERE...
THAT'S MY FANCY WAY OF SAYING: GO TO HELL.
I WAS EXCITED TO WORK WITH YOU.
HIT IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO THAT.
NNRRRAAA!
AAAARGGHHH!

HELLO, JESSICA DEAR...
IMAGINE HOW DIFFERENT YOUR LIFE WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT IF YOU'D ACCEPTED YOUR DESTINY AS AN AGENT OF HYDRA.
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, "MUM"?
WE'RE GOING TO CORRECT THE COURSE OF THE WORLD.
AND YOU NEED TO TEAM UP WITH OSBORN TO DO IT.
YOU MUST BE DESPERATE.
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I LOVE YOU, JESSICA.
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO EMBRACE YOUR DESTINY.

THIS IS AGENT BERNARD, CAN YOU READ US?
WE READ YOU.
PROCEED STRAIGHT AHEAD.
WE'RE READY TO ATTEMPT EXTRACTION.
PERMISSION GRANTED.
SOME ASSIGNMENT.
HEY, WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT THIS TILL WE'RE A HUNDRED.
TRUE.
TELL THEM IT'S WORKING.
EXTRACTION UNDERWAY.
AGH!
OH MY GOD!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
AGENT DOWN!
I REPEAT!
AGENT DOWN!
ABORT!
BUT HE'S--
I REPEAT! ABORT!
GET OUT OF THERE!
YOU ARE UNDER ATTACK!

@#$@$#@!
COMMAND, UH, I'M *UNDER ATTACK!*
I'M NOT GOING TO *MAKE IT!*
I'M NOT *GOING TO MAKE IT!*
AAAGGHHHH!

AGH!
WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE, AGENT?
IT--IT ATTACKED US.
WHAT DID?
HE DID!
WE COULDN'T GET THE SAMPLE.
IT WOULDN'T LET US.
EVEN IN A COMA THAT HULK IS A CRAZY PILE OF CRAZY!

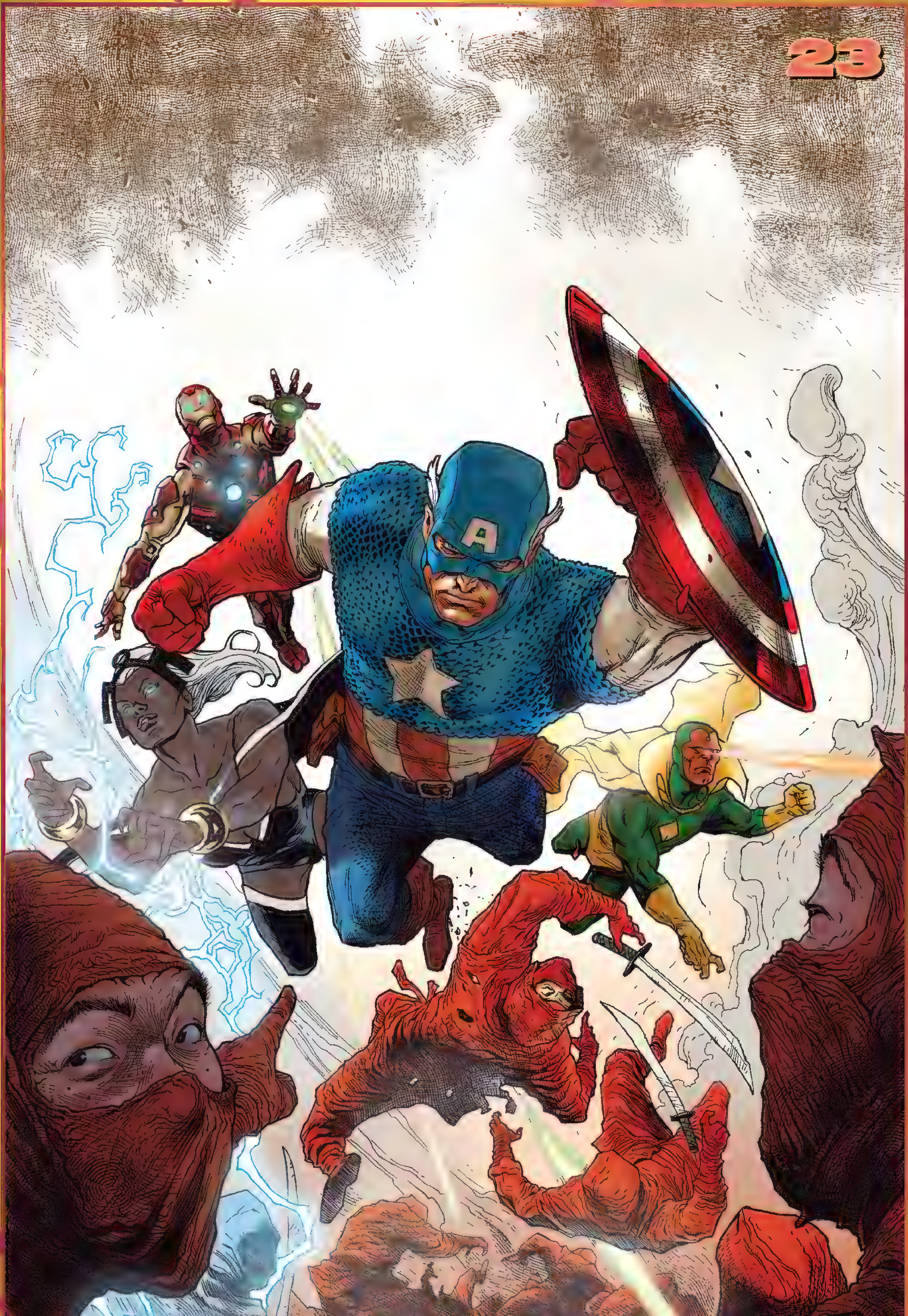
NEW JERSEY.
HOLY--!
TAKE ME TO NORMAN OSBORN.

YEAH, I MADE THE EARTHQUAKE THAT BROUGHT YOU TO ME. AND, HERE'S THE IMPORTANT PART, I CAN DO THAT *INSIDE YOUR BODY.*
HOW DID--
I CAN MAKE AN EARTHQUAKE INSIDE YOUR BODY AND MAKE YOUR HEART *EXPLODE.*
JUST BY *THINKING* IT.
WHAT DID--HOW DID--?
SMACK
OW!!
I KNOW IT WAS *YOU* WHO DROPPED THE HOLOGRAM OF OSBORN ON THE AVENGERS MANSION FRONT LAWN.
OW!!
WHAT KIND OF AVENGER *ARE YOU?!*
BECAUSE YOU DID IT IN FRONT OF ABOUT TEN STREAMING CAMERAS, GENIUS.
TAKE ME TO OSBORN.
TAKE ME TO HIM OR I *SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU!*
OKAY, OKAY...

JARVIS, THIS IS THE VISION.
COME IN, JARVIS.
CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS FALLEN AND MOST PROBABLY HAS BEEN CAPTURED.
I'M HEADING BACK TO AVENGERS MANSION TO CALL IN RESERVES.
IF YOU ARE READING THIS, CALL IN LUKE CAGE'S NEW AVENGERS TEAM AND ANYONE ELSE THAT WE CAN RELY ON.
INCLUDING THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE X-MEN.
I FEAR A LARGER PLAN BY OSBORN IS IN PLAY.
CALL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO CLEAR THE PROTESTERS OFF OF THE MANSION LAWN BECAUSE I FEAR THEIR LIVES ARE IN DANGER IN SUCH CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A POTENTIAL--
AND THAT'S WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HOLD ALL OF THE AVENGERS ACCOUNTABLE AND--OH, WELL, THE VISION.
AN AVENGERS CLASSIC.
WE WERE ALL SURPRISED TO SEE YOU ON CAPTAIN AMERICA'S NEW TEAM.
HOW IS IT YOU ARE ALIVE AGAIN? OR IS THAT A BIG AVENGERS SECRET TOO?

WHAT TRICK IS THIS, OSBORN?
ANOTHER HOLOGRAM TO THREATEN US?
NO.
I'M VERY REAL.
I WAS JUST TALKING TO THE WORLD MEDIA HERE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND--
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.
YOU CAN'T ARREST ME, YOU'RE NOT EVEN HUMAN.
WHERE'S CAPTAIN AMERICA? WHERE ARE THE AVENGERS?
PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION.
HOW EXACTLY LIKE YOU PEOPLE.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, OSBORN.
AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU.
GO HO E!
PEACE!

ALERT ALERT ALERT
SMASH
AND WITH THAT, I THINK YOU SEE I WAS RIGHT--THAT THE TIME FOR CHANGE HAS COME...
I HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US.
WE'RE DOING THIS FOR YOU.
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.
OKAY...
LET'S REACH OUT TO HIM.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK.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THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN.
heil hammer!
heil hammer!
hammer!
heil hammer!
heil hammer!
SHOW THEM WE ARE NOT ARMED.
YEAH YEAH...
MADAME HYDRA, I PRESUME.
MADAM SECRETARY.
IS IT MADAM SECRETARY-GENERAL?

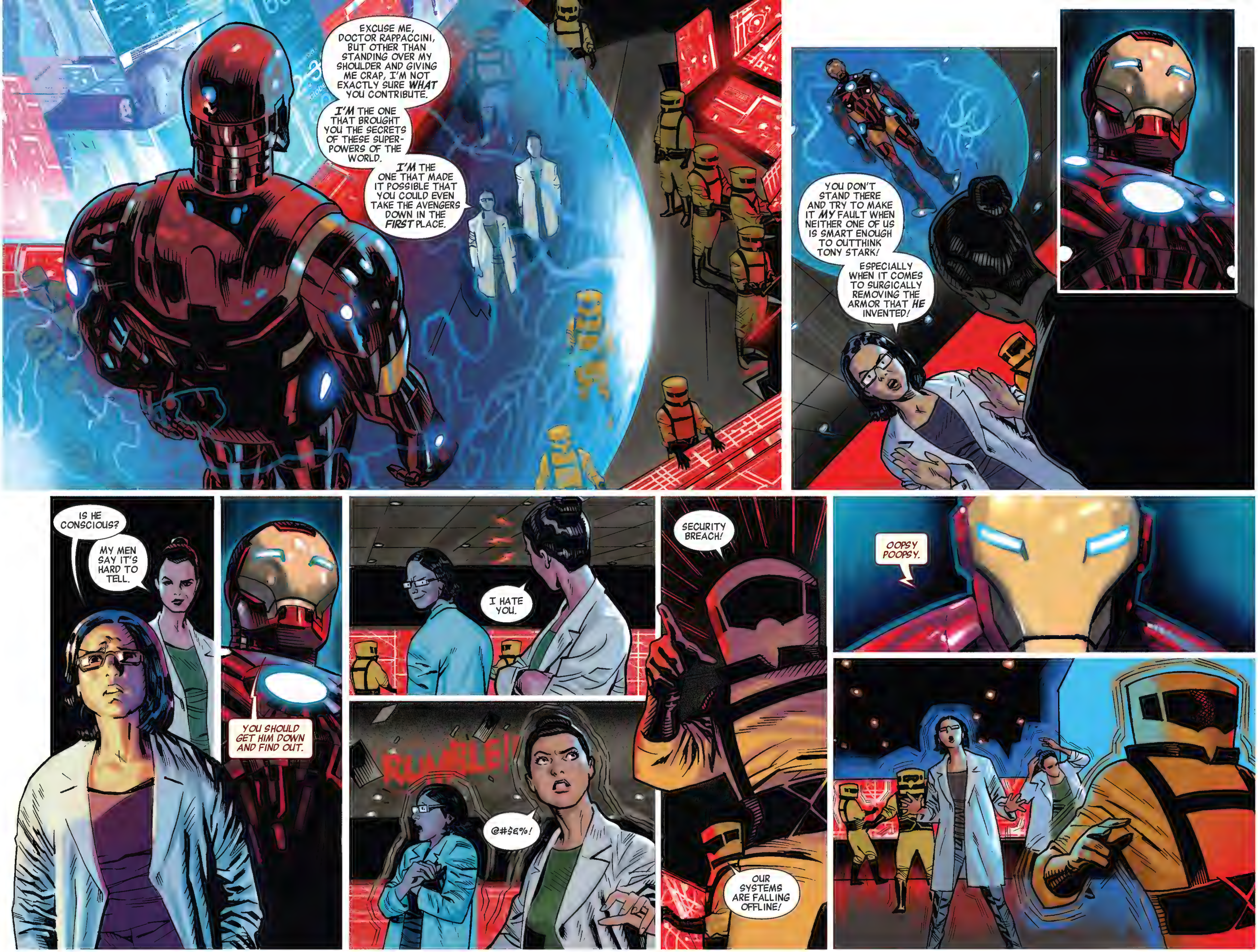
QUITE A DANGEROUS GAME YOU'RE PLAYING THIS TIME.
CAPTAIN AMERICA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO GAME.
THE DEAL WAS WE SPEAK TO YOUR PRESIDENT *DIRECTLY.*
ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.
I'M HERE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MADAME HYDRA?
I SPEAK FOR NORMAN OSBORN.
THAT WAS UNDERSTOOD.
WE ARE WILLING TO HAND OVER CAPTAIN AMERICA ***AND*** THE OTHER AVENGERS IN OUR POSSESSION.
AND WHAT DO YOU WANT IN RETURN?
WE WANT YOU TO IMMEDIATELY ***ARREST*** THE AVENGERS, ONE AND ALL, AND TRY THEM FOR THEIR WAR CRIMES.
WE BELIEVE YOU HAVE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THEIR WRONGDOING, AND, IF YOU DON'T HAVE EVIDENCE, WE WILL PROVIDE IT ***FOR*** YOU.
IN RETURN WE OFFER OUR SERVICES.
THE SERVICES OF THE UNITED FRONT OF H.A.M.M.E.R. WHICH, AS YOU PROBABLY NOW KNOW, INCLUDES OSBORN'S HANDPICKED SUPER TEAM, PLUS THE SCIENCE CONCLAVE OF A.I.M., HYDRA AND THE HAND...
AND ***WE*** *WILL BE THE WORLD PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE.*
WE EXPECT YOU TO APPOINT NORMAN OSBORN AS DIRECTOR OF ALL DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEMS.
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...

WE WILL WORK WITH YOU TO CREATE THE *NEW* WORLD ORDER IN WHICH, WE BELIEVE, THE WORLD GOVERNMENTS, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE TYRANNICAL GRIP OF CORPORATIONS, WILL LEARN TO FUNCTION IN A WAY THAT SUITS OUR FUTURE-THINKING WORLD VIEW.
I CAN'T PUT IT ANY CLEARER THAN THAT.
AND IF WE ***DON'T*** ABIDE BY YOUR DEMANDS?
DEMAND IS A STRONG WORD, MR. PRESIDENT...
AND IF WE DON'T ***ABIDE*** BY THEM?
WE BELIEVE YOU KNOW YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.
CAPTAIN?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOUR PRESIDENT IS SPEAKING TO YOU.
YOU DO NOT...
NEGOTIATE...
WITH TERRORISTS.

WHAT'S FUNNY ABOUT THAT IS THAT, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE AVENGERS ARE THE TERRORISTS.
THUD!!
AND IF YOU HAVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR PUBLIC, MR. PRESIDENT--
AND WE THINK YOU HAVE--
WE THINK YOU SEE THERE'S A GROWING FEELING IN THE WORLD THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS OPINION.
MADAME HYDRA...
I HAVE AUTHORIZED MY PEOPLE TO BRING YOU AND YOUR MEN INTO CUSTODY.
I WILL ACCEPT THE TERMS OF YOUR SURRENDER.
WELL, THAT'S-- THAT'S RATHER DISAPPOINTING, MISTER PRESIDENT...
I THINK YOU'RE MISREADING THE SITUATION.
I THINK THE SITUATION IS THAT I AM STARING INTO THE FACE OF A MADWOMAN SPEAKING THE WORDS OF A MADMAN.
YOU THINK ME MAD BECAUSE I CAME TO YOU FOR PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION, UNARMED?
FOR STARTERS, YES...
I AGREE. THAT WOULD BE INSANE.
THAT WOULD BE COMPLETELY INSANE.
HAIL HYDRA!
HAIL HAMMER!

heilhydra!!
heilhydra!!
heilhydra!!
heilhydra!!
heilhydra!!
heilhydra!!
heilhydra!!
TOLD YOU.
SEND IN THE BACKUP BATTALIONS!
THEY'RE JUST OVER THE HORIZON.
@#$@#!
TOLD YOU.
TO ME, THE BEST PART IS THAT YOU GET TO WATCH.
THE BEST PART.

AAAARRGGHH!
WHAT A PAIN THIS ONE IS.
THIS IS STORM.
SHE'S ONE OF THE X-MEN. SHE'S THE QUEEN OF WAKANDA.
OR SHE *WAS* UNTIL SHE BECAME AN AVENGER. WHO KNOWS?
I KNOW *WHO* SHE IS, DR. WASHINGTON.
IT DOESN'T MAKE HER LESS OF A PAIN.
H.A.M.M.E.R. HEADQUARTERS/A.I.M. LABORATORIES
YOU WILL LET ME GO!
THING IS, SHE'S NEW TO THE TEAM. WE'RE NOT PREPARED FOR HER.
I AGREE.
SHE WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN.
YUP.
SHUT IT DOWN. HIT HER WITH SOME GAS.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF--
FSSSS
FSSSS
ELEMENTAL POWERS DO FASCINATE ME.
YOU'RE BATTING 1000, DR. WASHINGTON... FIRST YOU SCREW UP WITH TONY STARK AND NOW *THIS*.
FIRST I SCREW UP?


EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR RAPPACCINI, BUT OTHER THAN STANDING OVER MY SHOULDER AND GIVING ME CRAP, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE *WHAT* YOU CONTRIBUTE.
I'M THE ONE THAT BROUGHT YOU THE SECRETS OF THESE SUPER-POWERS OF THE WORLD.
I'M THE ONE THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU COULD EVEN TAKE THE AVENGERS DOWN IN THE *FIRST* PLACE.
YOU DON'T STAND THERE AND TRY TO MAKE IT *MY* FAULT WHEN NEITHER ONE OF US IS SMART ENOUGH TO OUTTHINK TONY STARK!
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO SURGICALLY REMOVING THE ARMOR THAT *HE* INVENTED!
IS HE CONSCIOUS?
MY MEN SAY IT'S HARD TO TELL.
YOU SHOULD GET HIM DOWN AND FIND OUT.
I HATE YOU.
RUMBLE!!
@#$&%!
SECURITY BREACH!
OUR SYSTEMS ARE FALLING OFFLINE!
OOPSY POOPSY.

RUMBLE
THE AVENGERS!!
BRING THEM TO ME!
OR I WILL BRING THIS ENTIRE BUILDING DOWN ON YOU!

AVENGERS MANSION.
CRAKK!
MASTER VISION?!
JARVIS, MY GOOD MAN, YOU NEED TO GET AHOLD OF THE OTHER AVENGERS.
WE ARE UNDER SIEGE.
ALERT ALERT ALERT
ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT
THE--THE OTHER AVENGERS ARE NOT ANSWERING THE CALL!
GET YOURSELF TO SAFE HARBOR, MY FRIEND.
OSBORN! YOU DARE ATTACK AVENGERS MANSION? THEN YOU TAKE--
HE, UH, HE LEFT.
WHERE DID HE GO?
UH, UP.
AV RULES
HE TOOK OFF.
AV

OSBORN DOESN'T FLY.
HE DOES *NOW.*
WOW.
WONDER WHAT *THAT'S* ALL ABOUT?
OSBORN'S THE MAN.
HE'S BRINGING IT RIGHT BACK INTO THEIR FACE!
UH, GUYS...
WHAT'S *THIS* NOW?
TELL THE NETWORK TO GO LIVE!
LIVE AS IN *NOW!*
AVENGERS MANSION IS BEING SEIZED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT!

WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
SEND EVERYONE YOU HAVE TO THE HELICARRIER BAY!
GOOD LORD!
WHAT IS *HAPPENING?*
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
I KNEW THIS WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

OKAY, OKAY. EVERYBODY OUT!
EVERYONE!
USE THE ESCAPE ROUTES!
GO, GO!
GO!
KRA-SH
AGH!

DOCTOR.
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
DAISY?
WHOA WHOA WHOA-- IT'S ME.
SPIDER-WOMAN. SWEAR.
SORRY.
DID YOU DO ALL THIS ALL BY YOURSELF?
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
THEY SPLIT US UP.
SUDDENLY FEELING VERY INFERIOR.
I WANT EARTHQUAKE POWERS.
DON'T.
IF I LIVE TO BE 1000 I WILL NEVER HAVE HAIR AS NICE AS YOURS.
ZAKKK!
AAAWWW. I TAKE BACK EVERYTHING I EVER SAID ABOUT YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT ME?
HMM? WHAT?
HULK?
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?
NEVER MIND.
DON'T CARE.
JUST POINT ME.

WHICH WAY DO WE-- NEVER MIND.
LET'S GO.
LOOKS LIKE IRON MAN REPULSOR RAYS TO ME.
PUII! PUII! PUII! PUII! PUII!
HAIL H.A.M.M.E.R.!
ALLOW ME.
NICE.
OH, AND I'M NOT DONE YET.
I'M GOING TO PULL NORMAN OSBORN'S HEAD RIGHT OFF HIS BODY.
I WILL PAY FIVE DOLLARS TO SEE THAT.
OKAY, TRAITOR LADY...WHERE ARE THE OTHER AVENGERS?! AND SO HELP ME, IF YOU--
YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME, STARK.
I'M--I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU.
THEN YOU'RE STUPID.
LOOK.
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
WHO'S LEFT?
CAPTAIN AMERICA, HAWKEYE AND THE PROTECTOR.
YOU--YOU WOULD DO THE SAME AS ME.
IF YOU BELIEVED IN ANYTHING WORTH ANYTHING IN THIS GOD-FORSAKEN--
GIVE HER TO ME.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO *HIT* HER, ARE YOU?
SHE DOESN'T HAVE POWERS.
GOING TO *EAT HER!*
HOLY--!
IN--IN-- *IN THE BASEMENT!* THEY'RE BEING HELD IN THE BASEMENT!
WITH-- WITH THE GORGON'S MEN.
WHO'S THE GORGON?
THE HAND.
BOOM!

OH MY GOD...
CLINT, CLINT...OH MY GOD...
GTTOURRNN
WHAT?
GET OUT.
RUN.
I'M GETTING WEIRD READINGS.
WE'RE NOT ALONE.
I WANT TO SAY "NO DUH" BUT I HAVE SEVEN DOCTORATES AND THAT MIGHT BE BENEATH ME AND YOU'RE A HULK AND YOU MIGHT SQUEEZE ME.
UGH!
I HATE NINJAS.
MY DEAR AVENGERS, THAT'S NOT THE HALF OF IT.

THERE'S A LOT MORE GOING ON HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE.
BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS LEADER OF THE WORLD PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE, I, NORMAN OSBORN, HEREBY *DECLARE* YOU ENEMIES OF THE STATE.
PLEASE, I BEG YOU, RESIST MY AUTHORITY.

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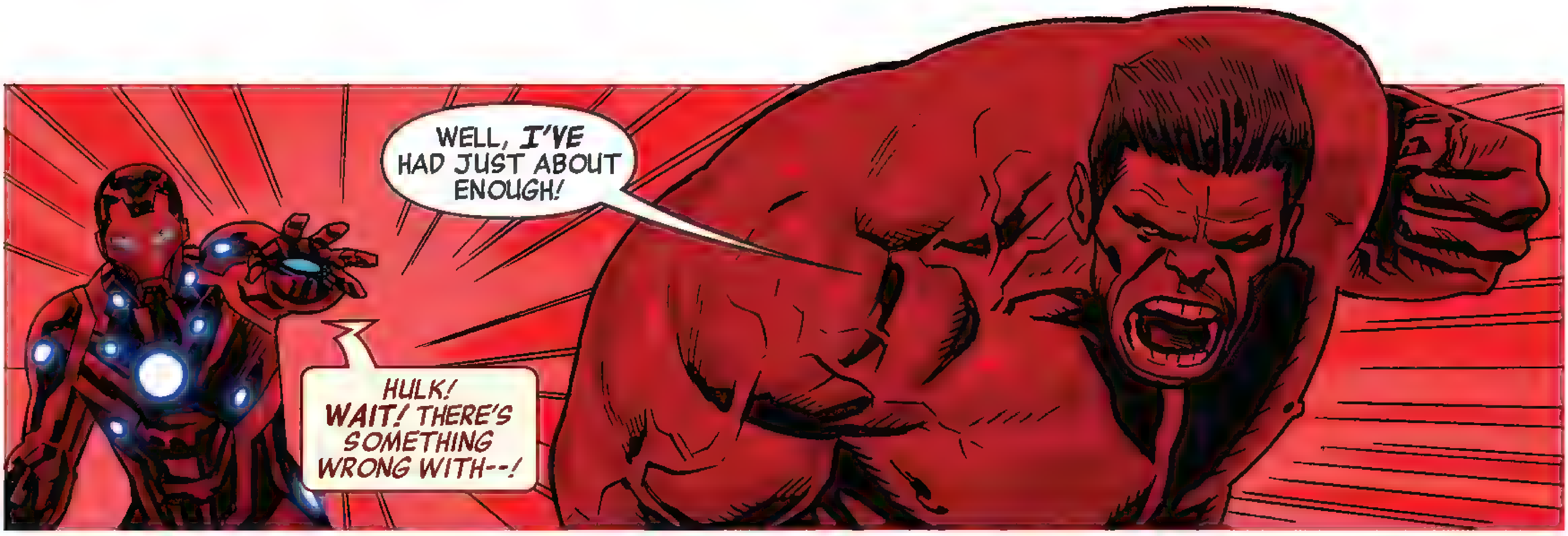
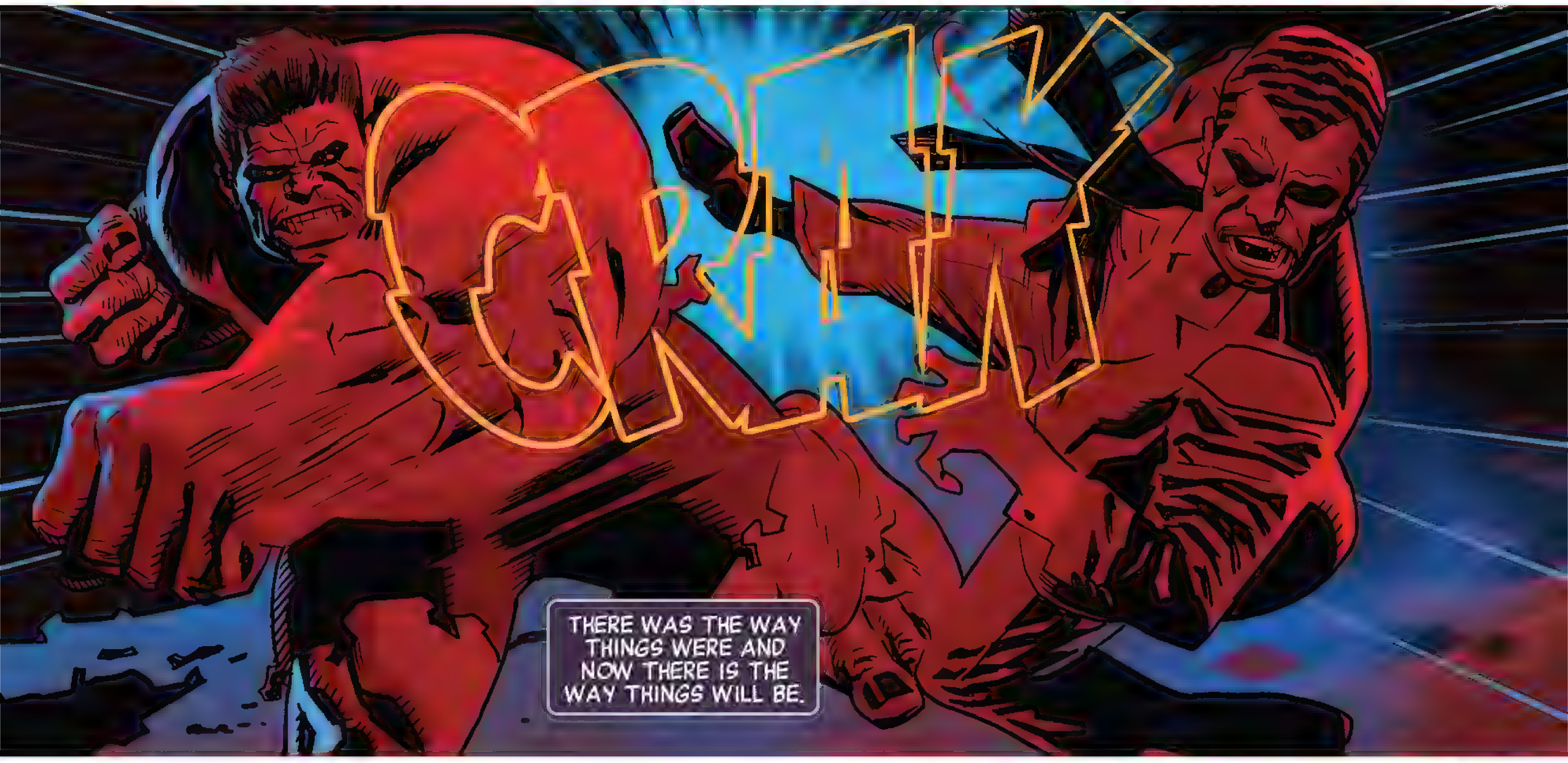
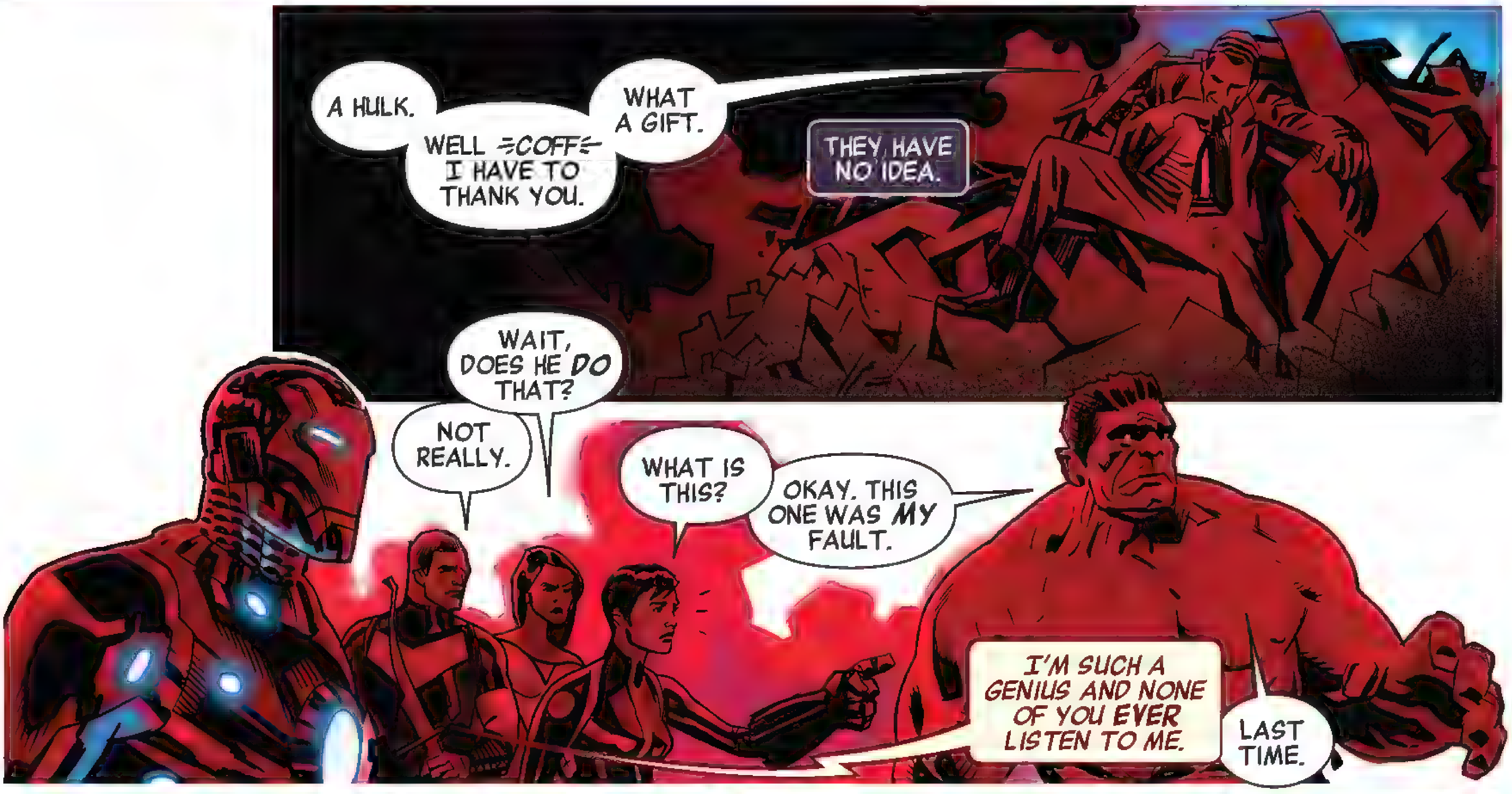
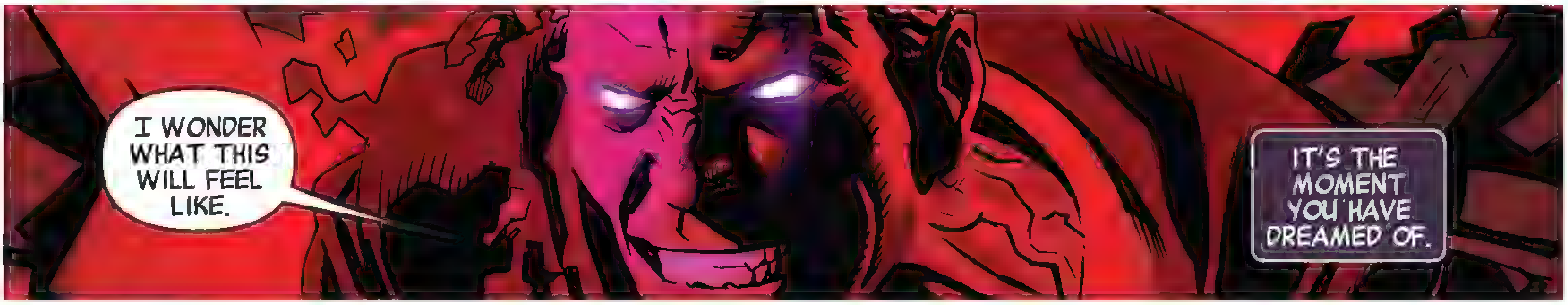
H.A.M.M.E.R. HEADQUARTERS/A.I.M. LABORATORIES. TWO WEEKS AGO.
DOCTOR RAPPACCINI, AS A.I.M. SCIENTIST SUPREME, I WONDER WHAT YOU'D HAVE FOR ME IN THE SPECIAL ABILITIES DEPARTMENT.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE USING YOUR ARMOR, OSBORN.
NO, MADAME HYDRA, I HATE TO REPEAT MYSELF.
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS LOOK THIS *GENIUS* RIGHT IN THE EYE.
WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR?
YOU WANT TO BE THE *GREEN GOBLIN* AGAIN?
I WAS HOPING YOU HAD A *SURPRISE* FOR ME.
SOMETHING *UNEXPECTED*.
WE'LL BE PLAYING A DANGEROUS GAME AND I WANT ALL BASES COVERED.
TELL HER THE TRUTH SHE NEEDS TO HEAR.
THIS GENIUS.
LET ME THINK.
SOMETHING MAGNIFICENT.
SOMETHING THAT WOULD *RATTLE* CAPTAIN AMERICA AND *IRON MAN* TO THEIR VERY CORE.
YOU WANT TO SEE THAT *LOOK* ON THEIR FACE.
I DO.
MAKE HER FEEL IMPORTANT.
FILL THAT HOLE IN HER SOUL FOR JUST ONE MOMENT.
HMMM....
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE ADAPTOID?
AND THAT IS ALL IT TAKES.

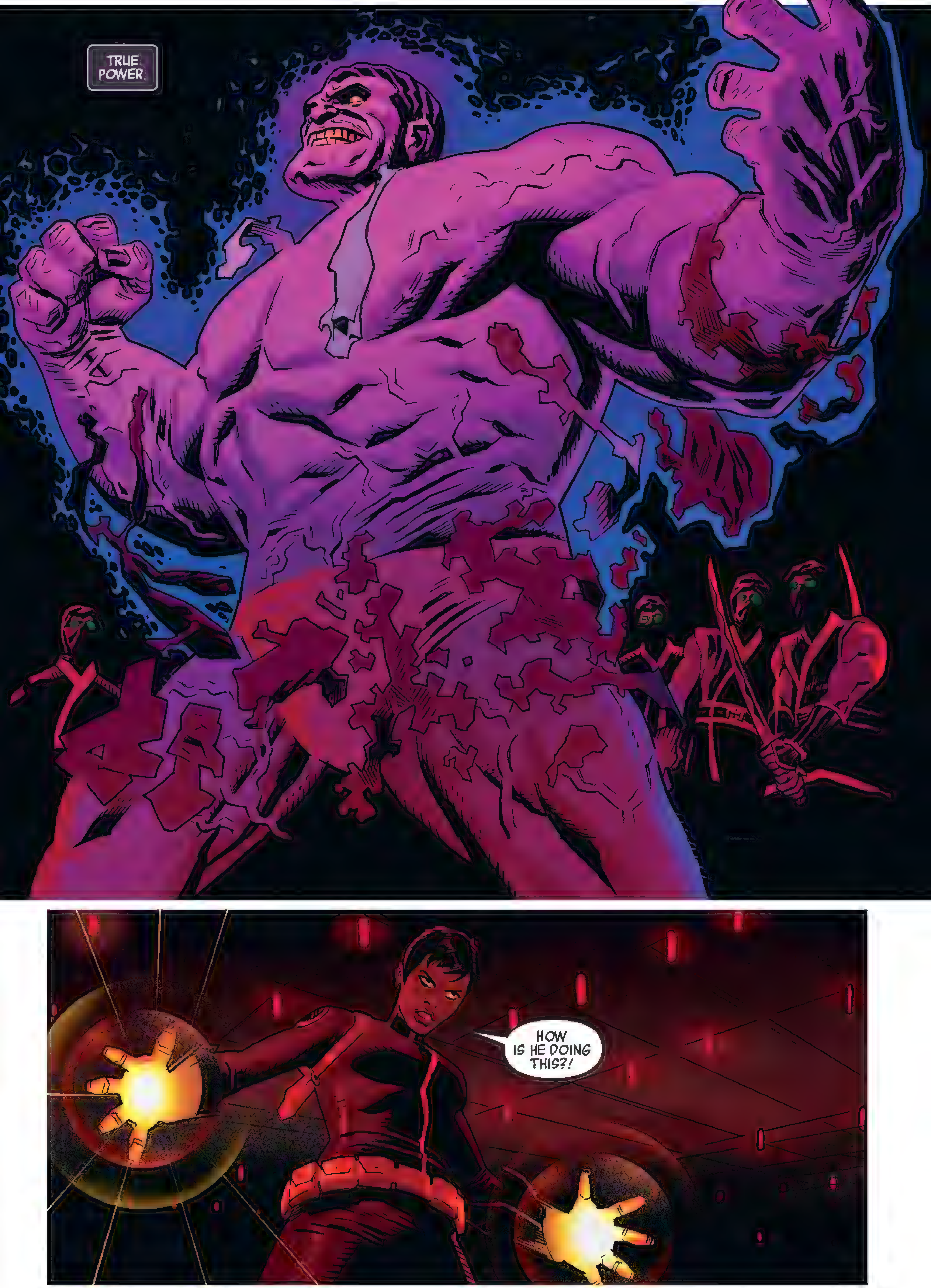
H.A.M.M.E.R. HEADQUARTERS/BASEMENT. NOW.
AND NOW YOU STAND.
KNOWING YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS.
POWER TO CHANGE EVERYTHING AROUND YOU.
POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH.
AND YOU LOOK THESE AVENGERS IN THE EYE AND SEE THEY DON'T HAVE A *DAMN CLUE* WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THEM.
AVENGERS, LAST CHANCE!
STAND DOWN OR I WILL BE FORCED TO *PUT* YOU DOWN.


WELL, *I'VE* HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH!
HULK! WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH--!


CRAK
THERE WAS THE WAY THINGS WERE AND NOW THERE IS THE WAY THINGS WILL BE.


A HULK.
WELL =COFF= I HAVE TO THANK YOU.
WHAT A GIFT.
THEY HAVE NO IDEA.
WAIT, DOES HE *DO* THAT?
NOT REALLY.
WHAT IS THIS?
OKAY. THIS ONE WAS *MY* FAULT.
I'M SUCH A GENIUS AND NONE OF YOU EVER LISTEN TO ME.
LAST TIME.


I WONDER WHAT THIS WILL FEEL LIKE.
IT'S THE MOMENT YOU HAVE DREAMED OF.


TRUE POWER.
HOW IS HE DOING THIS?!

TWO WEEKS AGO.
WHO INVENTED THIS, DOCTOR?
THIS SUPER-ADAPTOID PROGRAM.
I ACTUALLY COULDN'T TELL YOU, NORMAN.
LIAR.
BUT IT IS A PROCESS A.I.M. HAS BEEN REFINING FOR YEARS.
IT IS PERFECT DEFENSE BIO-WEAPONIZATION.
HOW DOES IT WORK?
IT'S SIMPLE, ACTUALLY.
ANYBODY WITH GENETIC PHYSICAL ABILITIES, WHETHER THEY BE MUTANT OR ACCIDENT-BASED, ANYONE YOU CAN TOUCH...
YOUR BODY WILL ADAPT TO BECOME THAT.
LET'S SAY YOU TOUCH SPIDER-MAN. YOU WILL THEN HAVE ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S POWERS.
AND THE BUT--
THE BUT IS YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL HOW MUCH POWER YOU ADAPT TO.
YOU HAVE TO WATCH HOW MUCH MIXING AND MATCHING YOU DO.
SO IT'S NOT JUST A ONE-TIME DEAL.
OH, NO.
YOU CAN KEEP DOING IT AND DOING IT.
KEEP POWERING YOURSELF UP.
BUT SOME OF THAT POWER MAY CONFLICT INTERNALLY... COMBUSTION, PHYSICAL MUTATION.
YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T TAKE A TOLL.
YOU WANT TO STAY IN CONTROL.
BUT IN THEORY, IF I ADAPT THE RIGHT KINDS OF POWERS, I COULD KEEP GOING AND GOING.
SHE FEARS ME.
I CAN SEE IT IN HER EYES.
SHE SHOULD.
IN THEORY...
LAST CHANCE, OSBORN.
IN OR OUT?

H.A.M.M.E.R. HEADQUARTERS/BASEMENT. NOW.
OSBORN, YOU UNBELIEVABLE ASS!
YOU TURNED YOURSELF INTO A SUPER-ADAPTOID!
A WHAT?
YES, AND I HAVE THE HAND ASSASSINS TO BACK ME UP AS WELL.
OVERKILL? MAYBE.
I JUST REALLY WANTED TO GET THIS RIGHT.
ATAKKU!!
THEY THINK WE'RE FIGHTING A WAR OF IDEALS.
I UNDERSTAND THAT.
I HAD TRICKED MYSELF INTO THINKING THE SAME.
BUT NOW I KNOW IT IS WHAT IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN...AND WE ARE WHO WE ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

BARBARIANS!
DAMN NINJAS.
YEP.
I HATE THEM LIKE INDIANA JONES HATES SNAKES.
YEP.
AVENGERS, FAN OUT AND TAKE THIS OUTSIDE!
FSHAAMM
BLOOD SOLDIERS AT THE GATES OF HELL.
OUTSIDE-- AAAAGH!!
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T WRAPPED YOUR HEAD AROUND WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, HAVE YOU?
CONQUERING WARLORDS BEATING EACH OTHER TO DEATH.
STAND BACK...I HAVE THIS.
ONLY ONE MAY LIVE!
ONLY ONE MAY RULE!

PLOF
I JUST BOUGHT US A FEW MINUTES.
TONY, WHAT DO WE DO?
HOW DO WE STOP HIM?
ZOOT!
ZOOT!
AND WE STILL HAVE NINJAS!
NINJAS.

NOT A FAN.
HOW DO WE PUT OSBORN DOWN?
WHAT'S AN ADAPTOID?
IT MEANS HE TURNED HIS BIOLOGY INTO A REPLICATING NEUROCYTOMA TRANSTOMITOR.
IT MEANS IF HE TOUCHES YOU, HE GETS YOUR POWERS.
HENCE THE HULKING OUT.
SO NOW HE'S A HULK AND A VISION AND WHO THE HELL KNOWS WHAT ELSE.
HE'S PROBABLY BIO-DOWNLOADED HIS ENTIRE TEAM OF AVENGERS.
ALL RIGHT, SO HOW DO WE PUT HIM DOWN?
THERE IS A WAY BUT IT'S DAMN RISKY.
WELL, FOR SURE, NO ONE ELSE SHOULD TOUCH HIM.
WE NEED ALL THE OTHERS. WE NEED ALL THE AVENGERS.
WHO'S STILL MISSING?
VISION'S STILL ALIVE.
HEY, VISION, BUDDY, WAKEY-WAKEY...
OSBORN'S COMING BACK.
ME FIRST.
AFTER YOU.

NYAYAAAGGHHH!
K-KRAK
HOW DO YOU THINK HIS HEART WILL HOLD UP AFTER A POINTED EARTHQUAKE RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF IT?
YKAARG!
BROOMM

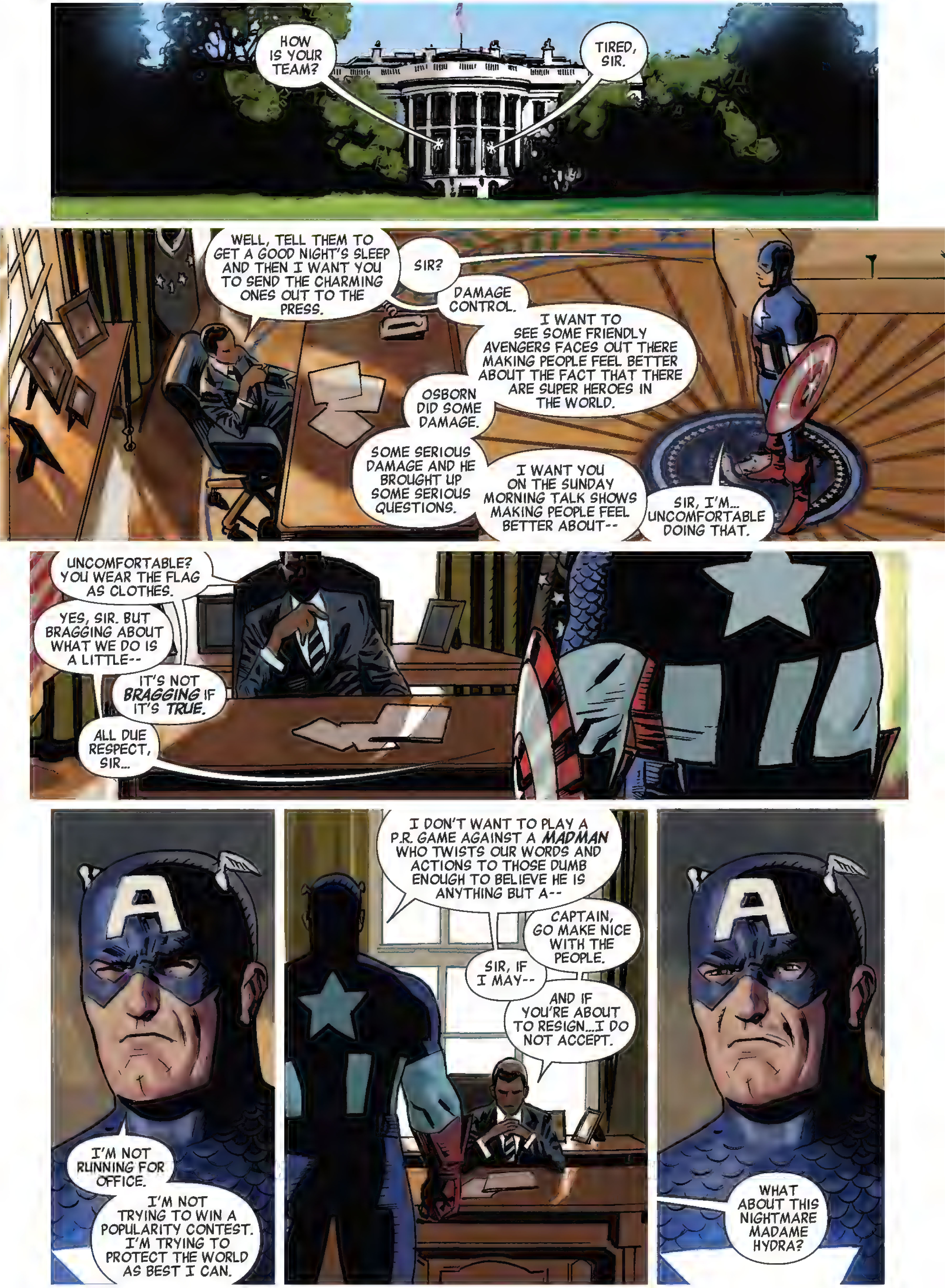
I WONDER WHAT THEY WILL SAY ABOUT ME WHEN I DIE.
HE WAS A LEADER.
A VISIONARY.
A COMPLEX MAN IN A COMPLEX WORLD.
I WONDER WHO WILL PLAY ME IN THE MOVIE.
AND THERE *WILL* BE A MOVIE.
SO, GET UP.
THE STORY ISN'T FINISHED.
THE BATTLE HASN'T BEEN WON.
YOUR POINT HAS NOT BEEN MADE.
THIS WORLD NEEDS TO CHANGE UNDER YOU.
THIS IS THE DAY THE WORLD CHANGES FOREVER AND FOR ALL TIME.
AND THEY KNOW IT.
HE'S STILL ALIVE.
THAT IS UNBELIEVABLY DISAPPOINTING.
LET'S SEE HOW MUCH DAMAGE WE CAN DO *WITHOUT* TOUCHING.

SOMEONE SHOULD BE RECORDING THIS.
FILMING IT FOR GLOBAL POSTERITY.
THEY SHOULD SEE THE DAY I TOOK THE WORLD.
STOP.
HE HAS DISCOVERED MY DENSITY CONTROL POWERS.
MY APOLOGIES.
AND I THANK YOU.
PLAN B THEN.
IS PLAN B THAT YOU DIE?
NOT NECESSARILY.

SO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU.
I AM NOH-VARR, A KREE SOLDIER.
ALIEN TO YOUR WORLD AND AN AVENGER.
MY DNA AND YOURS WILL NOT MIX WELL.
ENJOY TRYING TO ADAPT TO IT.
HUURAAGHH!
EVERYONE, NOW!
GRAB HIM.
ALL AT ONCE.
THEY HANDED IT TO ME.
THEY HANDED ME THE POWER TO RULE THE WORLD.

UH... *THAT* MIGHT HAVE BEEN A HUGE MISTAKE.
LET'S TRY IT AGAIN.
BUT SEE IF HE CAN HANDLE THE COMBINED POWERS OF THE AVENGERS AND THE *NEW* AVENGERS.
HEY, NORMAN, IT'S *ME!*
YOU REMEMBER ME FROM THAT THING THAT TIME?
IT IS THIS DAY.
OH, NO.

UUGGNN...
AGENT WASHINGTON, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR TREASON AND ESPIONAGE.
SHAME ON YOU.
WHERE-- WHERE'D THE OTHERS GO?
BOTH H.A.M.M.E.R. FACILITIES ARE LOCKED DOWN.
NORMAN IS IN CUSTODY.
BUT THE S.H.I.E.L.D. DOCTORS SAY HE IS IN A DEEP COMA.
HIS BRAIN IS FRIED. AND HIS BODY, WELL, HE HAS NO ONE TO BLAME BUT HIMSELF.
BUT WE HAVE HIM.
"THE AVENGERS AND S.H.I.E.L.D. HAVE ARRESTED OVER 3300 MEMBERS OF HIS H.A.M.M.E.R. CELL AND A.I.M."
"3300?"
"OSBORN'S AVENGERS HAVE BEEN HANDILY TAKEN DOWN, THANKS TO THE NEW AVENGERS, AND ARE BEING TRANSPORTED TO THE RAFT AS WE SPEAK.
"THERE'S SOME TALK ABOUT HAVING THEM JOIN THE THUNDERBOLTS INITIATIVE...
"BUT CLEARLY THAT IS YOUR CALL, SIR."

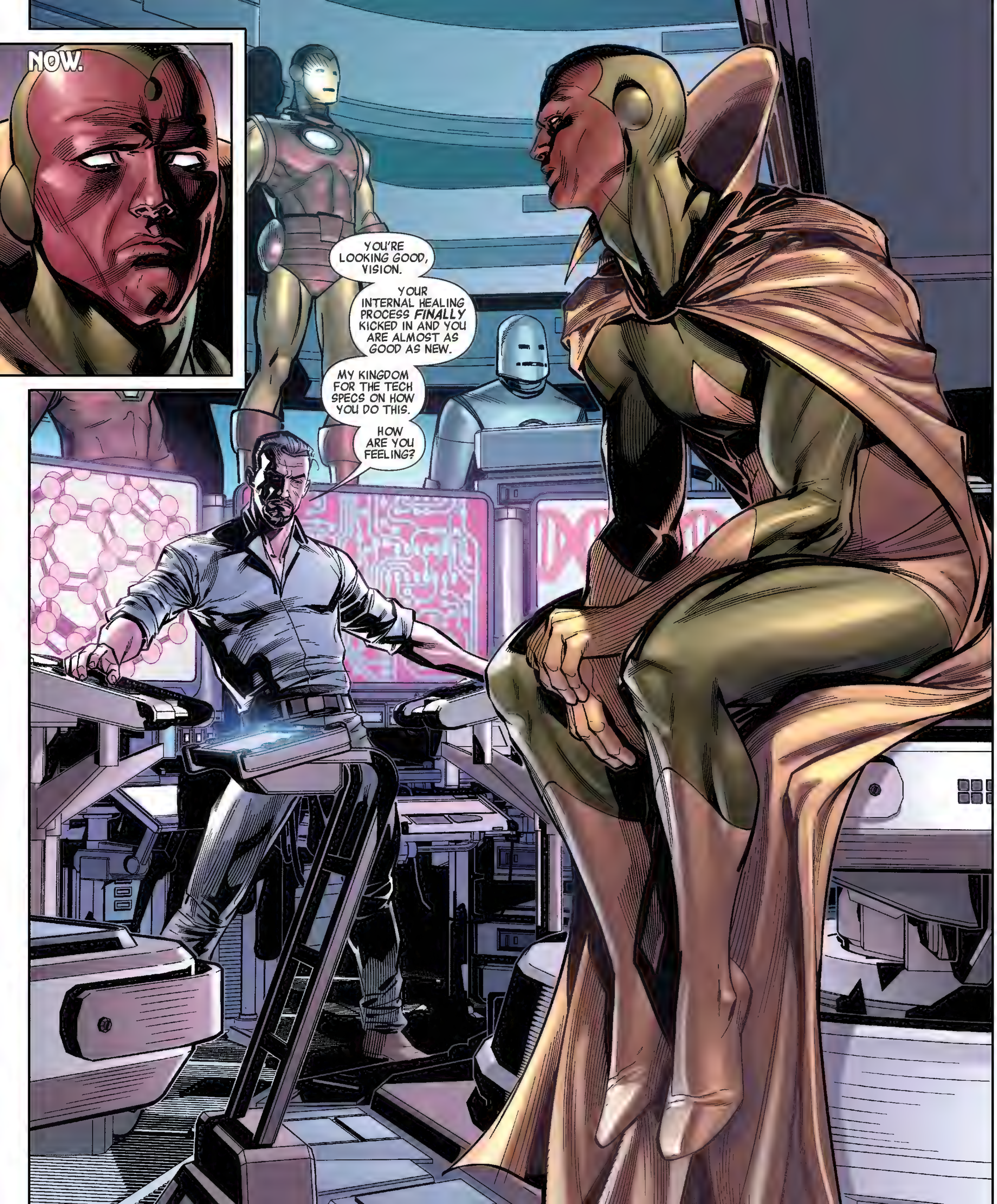

HOW IS YOUR TEAM?
TIRED, SIR.
WELL, TELL THEM TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND THEN I WANT YOU TO SEND THE CHARMING ONES OUT TO THE PRESS.
SIR?
DAMAGE CONTROL.
I WANT TO SEE SOME FRIENDLY AVENGERS FACES OUT THERE MAKING PEOPLE FEEL BETTER ABOUT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SUPER HEROES IN THE WORLD.
OSBORN DID SOME DAMAGE.
SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE AND HE BROUGHT UP SOME SERIOUS QUESTIONS.
I WANT YOU ON THE SUNDAY MORNING TALK SHOWS MAKING PEOPLE FEEL BETTER ABOUT--
SIR, I'M... UNCOMFORTABLE DOING THAT.
UNCOMFORTABLE? YOU WEAR THE FLAG AS CLOTHES.
YES, SIR. BUT BRAGGING ABOUT WHAT WE DO IS A LITTLE--
IT'S NOT *BRAGGING* IF IT'S *TRUE*.
ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR...
I'M NOT RUNNING FOR OFFICE.
I'M NOT TRYING TO WIN A POPULARITY CONTEST. I'M TRYING TO PROTECT THE WORLD AS BEST I CAN.
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY A P.R. GAME AGAINST A *MADMAN* WHO TWISTS OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS TO THOSE DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE HE IS ANYTHING BUT A--
CAPTAIN, GO MAKE NICE WITH THE PEOPLE.
SIR, IF I MAY--
AND IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO RESIGN...I DO NOT ACCEPT.
WHAT ABOUT THIS NIGHTMARE MADAME HYDRA?

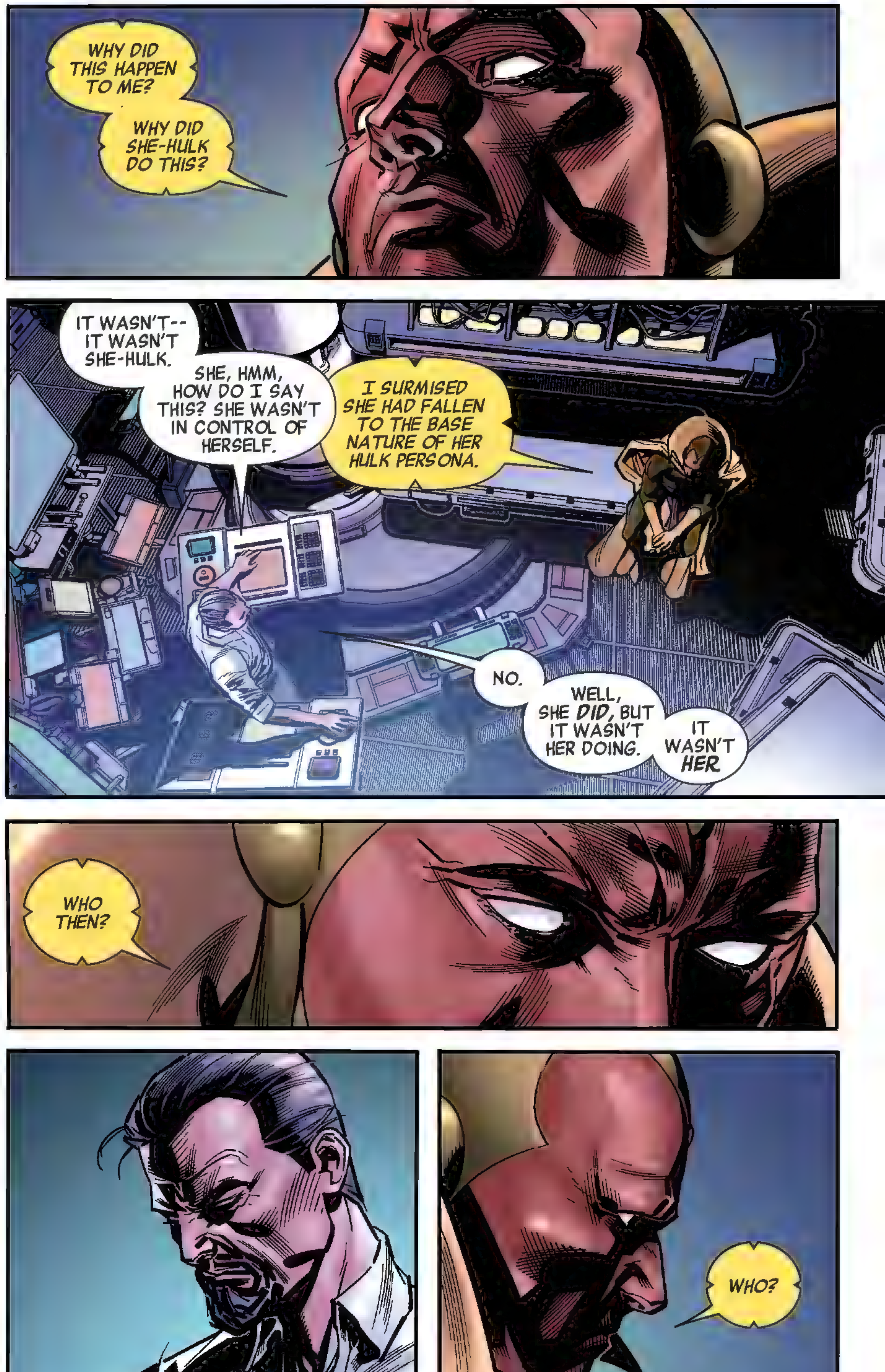
"SHE IS STILL OUT THERE.
"WITH WHAT I AM *SURE* IS JUST A *SMALL* CONCLAVE OF FOLLOWERS."
WE KNEW OSBORN WOULD FAIL.
BUT WE ALSO KNEW THAT HIS FAILURE WOULD BRING US WHAT WE NEEDED TO RISE AGAIN.
"BUT WHAT CONCERNS ME IS SHE MAY HAVE THE SCIENCE OF THE SUPER-POWERED COMMUNITY IN HER POCKET.
"ALL THE GENETIC RESEARCH THIS TRAITOR S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT BROUGHT WITH HER TO H.A.M.M.E.R. IS STILL MISSING.
"IT'S EITHER IN THE HANDS OF A.I.M., HYDRA OR BOTH."
AND, THANKS TO *YOU*, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE NOW HAVE *WHAT WE NEED!*
WE HAVE ALL THE TOOLS WE NEED TO BRING THE WORLD OF CORPORATE AND NATIONALIST GREED TO *ITS DAMN KNEES.*
heil hydra
H.A.M.M.E.R. IS DEAD, OSBORN IS DEAD.
LONG LIVE HYDRA.
heil hydra
heil hydra
heil hydra
HAIL HYDRA!
HAIL HYDRA, YOU MAGNIFICENT WARRIORS OF THE FUTURE.
heil hydra
HAIL HYDRA!
heil hydra
heil hydra
heil hydra
heil hydra
heil hydra
heil hydra
"OBVIOUSLY, SIR, THE AVENGERS WILL NOT REST UNTIL WE FIND HER."

24.1

THEN.
I JUST WATCHED AN AVENGER DIE!!
FOR NO GOOD REASON!!
AND THIS PIECE OF WHATEVER IT IS KNOWS WHY!! HE COMES DOWN HERE AND ATTACKS US??
NO!! THIS IS OUR HOME!!
WHY??
WHY WHY WHY WHYAAARRGGH?!
PUT HIM DOWN AND CALM YOURSELF, JENNIFER, I MEAN IT.
IT'S NOT EVEN HUMAN!! IT'S JUST A THING!!
A THING THAT JUST TRIED TO KILL US!!!
PUT HIM DOWN!
JENNIFER, CALM DOWN...

NNYYAARRGGHHH!


NOW.
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, VISION.
YOUR INTERNAL HEALING PROCESS FINALLY KICKED IN AND YOU ARE ALMOST AS GOOD AS NEW.
MY KINGDOM FOR THE TECH SPECS ON HOW YOU DO THIS.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?


WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME?
WHY DID SHE-HULK DO THIS?
IT WASN'T-- IT WASN'T SHE-HULK.
SHE, HMM, HOW DO I SAY THIS? SHE WASN'T IN CONTROL OF HERSELF.
I SURMISED SHE HAD FALLEN TO THE BASE NATURE OF HER HULK PERSONA.
NO.
WELL, SHE DID, BUT IT WASN'T HER DOING.
IT WASN'T HER.
WHO THEN?
WHO?
WANDA.
IT WAS WANDA.
YOUR WIFE.
I--

SHE LOST CONTROL OF HER POWERS.
SHE--SHE LASHED OUT AT US.
SHE TORE US APART BEFORE WE EVEN KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING.
IT WASN'T JUST YOU-- IT WAS ALL OF US.
THE AVENGERS-- WE ENDED UP DISBANDING OVER IT.
AND SOON AFTER, HER FATHER MAGNETO GOT AHOLD OF HER AND SHE--SHE SOMEHOW DECIMATED THE ENTIRE MUTANT POPULATION.
SHE WIPED OUT AN ENTIRE RACE OF PEOPLE, JUST TO GET BACK AT HER FATHER.
BOY, THIS IS HARD TO SAY.
I'M SORRY.
IS SHE OKAY? IS SHE STILL ALIVE?
LISTEN, A LOT HAS HAPPENED WHILE YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF COMMISSION.
SHE'S, SORT OF, OFF THE RADAR.
SHE--TO BE HONEST, NO ONE EVEN KNOWS WHAT TO DO ABOUT HER.
WHAT DO WE DO?
KILL HER?
DO WE ARREST HER?
PROVE BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT THAT SHE MAGICALLY WIPED AWAY A POPULATION?
WANDA.
I'M SORRY.
WHERE IS SHE, TONY STARK?
I PROMISE I DON'T--I'M JUST NOT SURE.
SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED.
STARK-- TELL ME EVERYTHING.

RRRR!!
STOP
STOP
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THE SHE-HULK!!
THE AVENGER... SHE-HULK!!
WOW!!
WHAT A SHOW OF--OF STRENGTH AND WOW!!
Health Now!
Health
WHHHOO!!
WOW!!
EEAAHH!!
WOW!!
WHHHOO!!
EEAAHH!!
HEALTHY EATING AND EXERCISE MAY NOT GET YOU HULK-SIZE, BUT IT *WILL* MAKE YOU STRONG AND HEALTHY!
AND HEALTHY MEANS HAPPY.
AND I CAN PROMISE IF YOU KEEP--

IS IT YOU?
THE REAL YOU?
IT IS.
IF YOU'RE HERE TO EVEN THE SCORE...I UNDERSTAND.
I HOPE YOU WON'T.
I HOPE YOU KNOW I WOULD HAVE ***NEVER*** EVER ***EVER*** DONE THAT TO YOU.
AT NIGHT I CAN'T PUT MY HEAD ON THE PILLOW WITHOUT THE IMAGE OF WHAT I WAS MADE TO DO TO YOU POPPING IN...
IT HAUNTS ME.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT.
IF YOU'RE HERE TO FIGHT, I WON'T FIGHT BACK.
I WON'T.
I JUST-- I HAVE TO TELL YOU...I'M JUST REALLY HAPPY YOU'RE OKAY.
ARE YOU OKAY?

I HAVE A WAYS TO GO.
DON'T WE ALL?
IT WOULD SEEM.
ARE WE COOL? YOU AND I?
I HOLD NO GRUDGE TOWARD YOU.
REALLY?
BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DO.
I DO NOT.
MY DEMEANOR IS, AS ALWAYS, AS IT IS.
DID SOMEONE TELL YOU WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?
YES.
I'M SO SORRY.
YOU, OF ALL OF US, YOU DIDN'T DESERVE THAT.
YOU QUIT THE AVENGERS?
AFTER WHAT I DID?
BUT YOU WERE UNDER HER CONTROL. IT WASN'T YOU.
CAN'T HELP HOW I FEEL.
AND I DIDN'T FEEL WORTHY ANYMORE.
AND I... THANK YOU FOR FORGIVING ME.
YOU'RE ONE OF THE ALL-TIME GREATS, VISION. YOU'RE WORLD-CLASS.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
FIND MY PLACE IN THE NEW WORLD.
YOU'VE MISSED A LOT.
SO I HAVE HEARD.
IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, OR JUST--IF YOU NEED A FRIEND...
YOU COME FIND ME.
I WILL.
I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING NOW, EVEN THOUGH I KNOW YOU HATE IT...

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY.
I'M SO GLAD.
DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON HER.
REMEMBER HOW SHE WAS RAISED.
THAT FATHER OF HERS.
MAGNETO.
SHE NEVER HAD A CHANCE.
MAGNETO.
I MEAN IT...
YOU NEED ME? YOU COME FIND ME.

UTOPIA.
ISLAND HOME OF THE X-MEN.
WELL DONE, HOPE.
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE I'M MOPPING THE COURTYARD WITH THE BIG GUY.
DON'T GET COCKY.
JAWOHL, HERR CYCLOPS.
FOCUS!
I'M GOING EASY ON YOU.
BAM!
NICE TRY.
ALMOST.
HELLO, FATHER...

I DON'T REMEMBER EVER GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO CALL ME THAT.
BY MARRIAGE.
I DON'T REMEMBER BEING INVITED TO YOUR WEDDING.
I WAS BEING... SARCASTIC.
IT'S HARD TO TELL WITH YOU, ROBOT.
THAT IS NOT AN ADEQUATE DESCRIPTION OF WHAT I AM AND YOU KNOW IT.
I HEARD YOU WERE SENT TO THE SCRAP HEAP.
YES, BY YOUR DAUGHTER.
AND WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?
I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO HER.
WELL, CLEARLY, SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU.
HOW DO YOU DO IT, MAGNETO?
HOW DO YOU, AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THE WORLD, AFTER YOU'VE RUINED YOUR CHILDREN'S LIVES...
HOW DO YOU NOT END YOUR OWN LIFE?
HOW DO YOU KEEP GOING?
NOW WHICH OF US IS BEING SIMPLISTIC IN THEIR DESCRIPTION OF THINGS?
WHERE IS SHE?
DO NOT THREATEN ME, ANDROID.
WHERE IS SHE?
I AM THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM, I CAN RUIN YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN KNEW SOMETHING HAD--

AND I SHALL PULL OUT YOUR HEART AND SHOW IT TO YOU WITH MY DYING BREATH.
WHERE IS SHE?

I DON'T KNOW.
SHE HATES ME.
SHE WOULD NEVER COME HERE.
WHAT YOU DID TO THAT WOMAN--
WHOA!
DON'T, SCOTT.
HE HAS MAGNETO BY THE HEART.
ONE FALSE MOVE...
SHE'S A GROWN WOMAN!
SHE MAKES HER OWN CHOICES!
BLAME ME ALL YOU WANT BUT SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER OWN CHOICES.
JUST AS YOU ARE NOW!
IF YOU DO THIS-- THE HUMANS WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
THEY WILL NEVER LET YOU BE ONE OF THEM AGAIN!!

HRRRAGH!
YOU KNOW...I CAN... DESTROY YOU.
YOU DO KNOW THAT, YES?
I CAN RIP YOU INTO YOUR BASIC ELEMENTS.
I CAN CONTROL YOU LIKE A PUPPET AND MAKE YOU DO THINGS THAT WOULD DESTROY ANY CHANCE YOU'D HAVE AT LIVING WITH THE HUMANS.

I COULD DO IT RIGHT NOW AND NOT LOSE ONE MOMENT OF SLEEP.
NOT AFTER WHAT YOU JUST SAID AND DID HERE.
NOT ONE MOMENT!
BUT I WON'T.
OUT OF RESPECT FOR HER.
WE SHOULD STOP THIS.
IT'S FAMILY STUFF, COLOSSUS. GIVE IT A SECOND.
I THOUGHT MY FAMILY WAS WEIRD.
ON THE OFF-CHANCE THAT YOU ARE STILL THE ONLY THING THAT COULD BRING HER ANY HAPPINESS...
I WILL *SPARE* YOU.
BUT IF YOU EVER COME BACK HERE AGAIN--
IF YOU EVER *SPEAK* TO ME THAT WAY AGAIN--
I WILL SHOW YOU, FIRST-HAND, MY POWER OVER YOU.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

MUTANTS GO HOME!!
AVENGING YOUR OWN INTERESTS!
ELECTED YOU?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?
AVENGERS MANSION.
WELL, NICE TO SEE YOU.
THAT'S ME AT ABOUT A 4, BARTON.
NOW IMAGINE IF WE ACTUALLY WENT ON A DATE.
YOU ACT LIKE IT'S MY FAULT WE HAVEN'T HAD TEN MINUTES TO BREATHE SINCE YOU AND I- UH- YOU KNOW.
NO, PLEASE.
I'D LOVE TO HEAR HOW YOU'RE GOING TO WORD THIS.
WHATEVER THIS IS.
UH-HUH.
BETWEEN US.
AND WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON BETWEEN US?
UM...
GO AHEAD, YOU CAN SAY IT.
IS HE HERE YET?

WHO?
THE VISION.
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.
HMM.
WHAT HAPPENED?
HE WENT TO UTOPIA AND PICKED A FIGHT WITH MAGNETO!
WHAT? WHY?
WANDA.
WHO?
THE SCARLET WITCH.
OH.
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT?
YOU TWO.
IS THIS A THING NOW?
YEP.
GOOD ANSWER.
THAT'S NICE. THAT'S--
HE'S HERE.

YOU!
LET'S BOW ON OUT OF HERE.
BUT--
SERIOUSLY. I KNOW THAT LOOK.
LET'S GO.
WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING?*
MY APOLOGIES, CAPTAIN.
IS *THIS* HOW IT IS GOING TO BE WITH YOU NOW?
IF IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TEAM FOR ME TO STEP ASIDE, I WILL ABIDE BY YOUR DECISION.
BUT I SINCERELY HOPE THAT--
STOP.
STOP.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
I DON'T THINK YOU--
YOU DON'T THINK THAT I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO WAKE UP IN A WORLD YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYMORE?
LISTEN TO ME, MY OLD FRIEND...
THIS IS THE BEST, TRUEST ADVICE I CAN GIVE YOU...
THERE'S NOTHING *BACK THERE* FOR YOU NOW.
FOR PEOPLE LIKE US--EVERYTHING IS *THAT* WAY--FORWARD.
YOU NEED TO LOOK FORWARD.

NEXT:
AVENGERS VERSUS X-MEN!

RYAN MEINERDING
AFTER
KIRBY

#18 MARVEL 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT
BY RYAN MEINERDING

BARBERI + VLASCO '11 + MARTEGRACIA

#21 VENOM VARIANT BY CARLO BARBERI, JUAN VLASCO & MARTE GRACIA

Tony Stark's fortune is gone.
Captain America's leadership has been questioned.
Thor is dead.
And Norman Osborn is back!

Freed from prison by his H.A.M.M.E.R. loyalists, Osborn has united with A.I.M., Superia and Madame Hydra. The man who once controlled America's security apparatus now wants revenge in the worst way. Now, the Avengers who deposed him are the target of Osborn's new secret weapon: an army with the powers of the Marvel Universe at its disposal — with Earth's Mightiest in its crosshairs! Such a threat requires reinforcements, so it's up to Captain America to shake up the Avengers' roster and bring in new firepower. Unfortunately for the Avengers, they have no idea what's coming! Will the cry of "Avengers Assemble" ring too late?

> **"This is a great jumping-on point for new readers."**
> — Dean Stell, *WeeklyComicBookReview.com*

Collecting *Avengers #18-24* and *#24.1* — written by **Brian Michael Bendis**; and illustrated by **Daniel Acuña**, **Renato Guedes** and **Brandon Peterson**.